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# THE TIMES

Incomes policy : The  
buck must stop in  
Parliament, page 16

## Uganda mass killings and torture reported by jurists

report published today by the International Commission of Jurists is that at least 80,000 to 90,000 people were murdered in Uganda during the first two years of President Amin's rule and that killings are still taking place. The report also suggests that there is

## Over 100,000 acclaim the Queen in Glasgow

More than 100,000 Glaswegians welcomed the Queen to their city on the first day of her Scottish jubilee tour yesterday and more than 60,000 crowded into George Square, in the city centre, where the Queen's walkabout had to be extended by 10 minutes because of the tumultuous welcome.



Presentation at No 10 : Police Constable Robert Matthews, who retired from the force next week after 16 years on duty outside 10 Downing Street, photographed with Mr Callaghan and Mr Healey, Chancellor of the Exchequer, after being presented with a camera and an original cartoon yesterday. The camera, the gift of Fleet Street photographers, was presented by the Prime Minister. Mr Matthews is to become a doorkeeper inside No. 10.

## Evidence of Amin responsibility

David Spenser, a British Correspondent, has published a report in the International Commission of Jurists. The report, which is a long and detailed account of the atrocities in Uganda, is based on evidence gathered by the commission. It states that the commission has found it possible to make a reliable estimate of the number of people who have been killed in Uganda since the start of President Amin's rule in 1971. The report says that the commission has received evidence from a wide range of sources, including survivors, witnesses, and officials. It concludes that the evidence is overwhelming and that the commission is satisfied that the killings were planned and carried out by the Ugandan government.

## Mr Healey outlines role of North Sea oil in expanding economy

By Malcolm Brown  
Mr Healey, the Chancellor, said last night that North Sea oil would enable the economy to be run at a higher level of activity and employment than had been achieved recently, without running into balance of payments constraints.

## White Paper urges new controls on rail cash

By Michael Bailey  
Transport Correspondent  
Hopes of more state support for the railways, strongly urged by British Rail and the railway unions in recent months, will be dashed by the White Paper on transport policy, which is due out next month.

## Mr Healey outlines role of North Sea oil in expanding economy

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## President speaks of bombshell

Our Correspondent  
said Mr Amin, President of Uganda, declared that he would not be a "bombshell" to the Commonwealth conference which is being held in London at the moment.

## Writ is issued over death of Mrs Bloch

The plaintiff is Mr Ilen Horvay, aged 50, Mrs Bloch's eldest son, who lives in London. He claims in the writ that his mother's death was caused "by the negligence or deliberate act or acts of the defendants, their servants or agents".

## BBC's court action over cup final

By Michael Horsnell  
The BBC will seek a High Court injunction today to stop industrial action today threatening the television transmission of the FA Cup Final on Saturday.

## o Foot slur on judiciary r Callaghan insists

Lough Noyes  
Secretary of State for the Environment, is expected to announce government plans to change the way in which household rates are charged.

## Review of army undercover work in Ulster

A reappraisal of many undercover intelligence operations by the Army in Northern Ireland is being undertaken by the Government, a "think tank" says today.

## Britain could save £1,000m by 1990s

Britain takes too little notice of population changes when planning social services, a report by the Government's "think tank" says today.

## Changes planned in household rating

Mr Shore, Secretary of State for the Environment, is expected to announce government plans to change the way in which household rates are charged.

## Red Cross 'deceived'

A Red Cross team which visited Indonesian political prisoners earlier this year was deceived over conditions in the prisons, a smuggled letter from a prominent detainee claims.

## Conteh title bout off

John Conteh, the world light-heavyweight boxing champion, said yesterday he had withdrawn from his title defence against Miguel Cuello, of Argentina, in Monaco on Saturday.

## Parents' choice: A referendum among parents in Tameside, Greater Manchester, showed that a large majority want grammar schools to be retained

Parents' choice: A referendum among parents in Tameside, Greater Manchester, showed that a large majority want grammar schools to be retained.

## Parliamentary debate on the future of the British Empire

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## Sharp price increases on tea and chocolates

High Claryn  
Tea price rises on tea and chocolate prices are expected to rise sharply in the coming months.

## Talks better than war

Freedom in Rhodesia and Namibia can still be established by negotiation rather than by the gun, a British minister argued at the United Nations conference in Maputo.

## Israel floating vote

Nearly half a million Israeli voters were still undecided, according to a last minute opinion poll when polling stations opened yesterday.

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Photograph: Gus Wylie

## Great Scot.

There's a special place in our heart for the pert plaids of British Caledonian. Maybe it's the splendid airline's independence that gets us. In any case, the feeling seems mutual. Last year, British Caledonian awarded Mobil a contract to supply about 20 million gallons a year of the aviation fuel its aircraft take aboard at Gatwick airport. That made the international airline one of our largest customers for aviation products in the United Kingdom. We supply a fleet composed of BAC 111s and Boeing 707s, from our fuelling facilities at Gatwick.

And how the big planes guzzle fuel! A 707 takes on about 10,000 gallons in a typical fuelling; and the 747s we service for other good customers over at Heathrow will take 30,000 gallons at a gulp.

All this is a far cry from Mobil's early days in the aviation business. Back in the 1920s, when we were taking care of the requirements of such daring young men as Charles Lindbergh and Major Kingsford-Smith, the Australian who circled the globe in his three-engine "Southern Cross", fuel often was measured

out in five-gallon cans and refuelling was done in farmers' fields—by prearrangement with the farmers.

It's a different business now. As one of Britain's leading aviation fuels suppliers, we deliver over 80 million gallons a year. That's roughly two-and-a-half million barrels.

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## HOME NEWS

## Chemists say profit squeeze threatens service to the public

By John Roper  
Health Services Correspondent

Government policy is squeezing chemists' profits on National Health Service prescriptions to the point where stocks cannot be replaced and patients may soon have to make more than one visit to get medicine, according to the Pharmaceutical Services Negotiating Committee. The committee says the service is in danger of breaking down as more chemists' shops close. Talks with officials of the Department of Health and Social Security have reached an impasse after 13 months, and a meeting is being sought with Mr. Ennals, Secretary of State for Social Services.

The committee said yesterday that not only had the department refused to meet the claim for an increase, it was also clawing back money, an estimated £11m this year, apparently because of chemists' increased efficiency. The department contended that increased efficiency was rewarded, but that was not so. Gains from the usual means of increasing profitability, such as discount buying, more efficient stock turnover, reduction of overheads and improved productivity meant less recompense.

If a chemist reduced overheads by cutting staff or moving to premises with lower rent, the savings were reflected in the next cost inquiry, and the overheads attributable to the NHS were reduced. Any increase in productivity by dispensing more prescriptions meant that overheads were divided by the

larger number of prescriptions, and the chemist got a smaller amount of a prescription.

Mr. Alan Smith, chief executive of the committee, said chemists did not want to be "feather-bedded" but they were frightened that they were on the edge of a precipice so far as service to the public was concerned. Chemists' shops had been closing at the rate of four a week for the past four years. In 1974 a chemist made about 4p in profit on a prescription. In 1977 the profit was 4.8p, which in 1974 terms was only 2.8p a prescription. The average profit on NHS business was £1,600 a year. Pharmacists felt particularly aggrieved because they were responsible people providing a service, were aware of the difficult national economic situation and had subsidised colleagues in difficult areas with a fund of a third of a million pounds to help them to keep open.

Mr. Griffith David, chairman of the committee, said it was unfair that retail business not connected with the prescription of medicine in chemists' shops might be used as an argument against an increase: that side of chemists' activities was "not so healthy", particularly in small shops.

The Pharmaceutical Society, representing 30,000 pharmacists, said last night that no other profession or group of people would be prepared to accept not only no increase in payments but a 23 per cent reduction in net profits from the Government. The situation would lead to serious inconvenience for the public.

## More unions join in phase three controversy

By Christopher Thomas  
Labour Reporter

The pay policy went on trial again at the annual meeting yesterday. The train drivers said it was a dead duck, civil servants gave it grudging approval, and white-collar railway staff supported a phase three.

The main prosecution witnesses are yet to be heard. Among them is the Amalgamated Union of Engineering Workers which is aiming to press for a return to unfettered wage bargaining, among 19 unions embraced by the Confederation of Shipbuilding and Engineering Unions.

The AUEW, second largest of the unions next to the transport workers, will make its move at the annual meeting of the confederation next month. The organization covers 2,500,000 workers and a "no" vote would be a serious setback for the advocates of pay policy.

Hugh Scanlon, AUEW president, seems certain to continue in the present TUC Government talks on what follows when the phase two wage agreement ends on July 31, despite the rejection of pay restraint by the union's dominant engineering section.

Mr. William Ronkley, president of the Associated Society of Locomotive Engineers and Firemen, told his union's conference at Buxton: "The contract is not only a dead duck, it is a political liability and should be buried without delay."

He also warned the Government of real trouble from the White Paper on transport contained in the dismantling of the railway system. Clearly hindering industrial action, he said the union would have no alternative but to oppose such proposals by every means at its disposal.

Declaring the social contract to be an unmitigated disaster for Government and the economy, he said the working class was in revolt against rapidly falling living standards. At least Bechling did his dirty work openly. Now we are experiencing a Bechling exercise by the back door.

Unless we can persuade the Government to increase interest rates in British Rail now our railways will be little more than scrap when they will be needed most due to the shortage of energy.

The white-collar Transport Staff Association which has 70,000 members, voted yesterday for another stage of pay policy. But it called for a correction of pay anomalies.

There was also overwhelming support for a phase three yesterday from the Institution of Professional Civil Servants, which has 100,000 members in salary ranges of up to £15,000. Its annual conference, at Scarborough, said that another year of restraint was an essential prerequisite for an orderly return to free collective bargaining.

The British Institute of Management today meets Mr. Bootle, Secretary of State for Employment, to press the need for another pay policy, but one that rewards skill and responsibility.

The Institute, representing 53,000 managers, is deeply concerned about the squeeze on managers' differentials and wants incentives restored. Sir Derek Ezra, its chairman, will head the delegation.

Timothy Raison, MP, page 16

**Council chairman**  
Sir Kenneth Thompson, a former junior minister, has been elected the first Council chairman of Merseyside County Council.

**Anti-abortionists' rally**  
By Our Health Services Correspondent

The Society for the Protection of Unborn Children organized a mass lobby of members of Parliament yesterday to try to influence the Government to give time for debate on Mr. Williams' Bill on Abortion (Amendment) Bill.

People were deeply concerned about the operation of the 1967 Act, the society said. For the Government to refuse, as it has done, to give time for debate of the Bill was "tantamount to telling the voters that Parliament." No government could afford to override the considerable public opinion in support of the Bill without

arrived at Blackbridge Wharf, Winchester, in 1869, and there after navigation fell into decay. But it subsists as a statutory right.

The underemployed but unemployed Commissioners of the Itchen Navigation last met in 1830, but they are still on the scene. The bank going back to Acts 16 and 17 of Charles II with the general duty of overseeing the management of the navigation and of fixing the rates of carriage.



Children from 30 London schools taking part in the twentieth annual country dance party at Coram's Fields, Bloomsbury, London, yesterday.

## Postmen vote to extend working life

From Tim Jones  
Labour Reporter  
Bournemouth

The Union of Post Office Footpaths and the General Union of Postmen's fundamental principles yesterday when delegates at their conference voted to allow members to extend their working lives.

A resolution, drafted by Mr. Norman Stagg, the union's deputy general secretary, will now ratify with the Post Office an agreement that will allow postmen, sorting staff, telephonists and telegraphists to work for a year or more beyond the age of 60 to the age of 65.

The agreement will give postmen the choice of working an extra five years as of right, and not, as at present, at the discretion of the Post Office.

That right will depend on the worker's ability to meet standards of fitness and efficiency and a recognition that there is a continuing need for the job.

Most of the postal workers chose to continue working to full pay.

The decision clashes deeply with the concept, called from other unions, for early retirement to create more jobs for younger people and to extend the leisure time of the elderly.

Mr. Stagg explained that a high proportion of postal workers did not enter the industry until middle age or later; retirement at 60 meant for many of them a totally inadequate pension and consequent hardship.

Union members had to work for 10 years to qualify for a pension of about £25 a week, which is calculated at one eighth of pay for every year of service.

In addition, he said, the anti-social hours gave a further opportunity for Mr. Charles Kerruish, Speaker of the House of Keys to argue that the Island should break its last fiscal links with the Westminster Government by levying its own indirect tax on the island's electricity generated from oil-fuelled power stations.

A select committee is studying recommendations that the Isle of Man should break away from the mainland's indirect tax system, possibly abolishing the 10 per cent tax on cheaper cigarettes, tobacco and drinks.

Mr. Kerruish said that if the island government did not take control of its indirect tax affairs it would remain a group of "puppet" states in the name of Westminster politicians' idiosyncrasies.

**High Court ban on electronic 'Planets' suite**

Miss Imogen Holst, daughter of Gustav Holst, composer of *The Planets* suite, was entitled to object to the sale of an electronic version which she felt mutilated her father's work. The High Court yesterday.

RCA Ltd was banned from manufacturing or selling in the United Kingdom records entitled *The Planets* by Isaac Tomita, a Japanese artist, who has produced "electronic realizations" of several other classical works.

The injunction is effective until the trial of an action by G. L. Holst Ltd, which holds rights to the works of Holst, alleging copyright infringement.

## Dr Eysenck's interpretation of twins study challenged by colleague

By Neville Hodgkinson  
Social Policy Correspondent

A suggestion last week by Dr Hans Eysenck that the results of a study of twins in America meant that the Royal Commission of the Distribution of Income and Wealth "might as well pack up" was challenged at a hearing of the commission yesterday.

The study, among nearly 2,500 pairs of twins, indicated that genetic factors were about 50 per cent responsible in determining the level of the twins' earnings. It also showed that differences in family background and educational opportunity appeared to have had little effect, but there was a big contribution from unidentified environmental influences.

Dr Eysenck, professor of psychology at the Institute of Psychiatry, London University, argued that egalitarian measures such as redistributive taxes and

benefits are an assault on genetically determined differences, and that the "limits" to which such measures can be employed by the state without provoking a mass reaction have long been passed in Britain.

Dr Michael Rutter, professor of child psychiatry at the Institute of Psychiatry, an important survey of research in the field, told the commission yesterday that the American findings had little bearing on the extent of income variation.

The findings referred only to the question of who earns more than someone else, he said, in evidence submitted jointly with Miss Nicola Madge, Mr. A. earned more than Mr. B. because of genetic and environmental influences in roughly equal measure. But the degree to which some people earned much more than others was alterable by both income

policies and by tax and welfare policies.

"The findings that genetic factors play a significant part in determining which people have higher or lower pre-tax earnings provides no real restriction on the power to manipulate the extent of the inequalities in income," Dr Rutter said.

Dr Rutter said: "Genetic factors (influencing IQ and personality) help to determine how far people make the most of their opportunities. Accordingly, the provision of equal opportunities for all (however desirable a goal in its own right) would have a relatively minor effect in reducing overall inequalities in income in the population as a whole."

On the other hand, improved opportunities could make a real difference for individuals who suffer from severe discrimination or disadvantage.

## Tax handouts considered for needy Manxmen

From John Charrles  
Douglas, Isle of Man

With an estimated budget surplus this year of nearly £1m, raised from a population of only 60,000, the Isle of Man Government has given further concessions to its taxpayers in the form of a 10 per cent income tax rebate to the lowest paid.

During the budget meeting of Tynwald, the Isle of Man parliament, yesterday, it was announced that the long-standing income tax rate of 24 per cent would be reduced to 21 per cent for those earning less than £1,000 a year.

The concession was a further opportunity for Mr. Charles Kerruish, Speaker of the House of Keys to argue that the Island should break its last fiscal links with the Westminster Government by levying its own indirect tax on the island's electricity generated from oil-fuelled power stations.

A select committee is studying recommendations that the Isle of Man should break away from the mainland's indirect tax system, possibly abolishing the 10 per cent tax on cheaper cigarettes, tobacco and drinks.

Mr. Kerruish said that if the island government did not take control of its indirect tax affairs it would remain a group of "puppet" states in the name of Westminster politicians' idiosyncrasies.

**Doorstep buyers protected**  
By Our Consumer Affairs Correspondent

A proposed EEC Council directive to protect the doorstep seller from door-to-door selling contracts, void, and called for a lower limit to the value of contracts covered.

The directive was also criticized for being too widely drawn three one-day sales demonstrations at the place of work, and the insurance man's collection round might be affected.

MPs were urged to find ways of concentrating attention on foot-in-the-door salesmen, with our opening loopholes that might be used to avoid the legislation.

Mr. Maurice Healy, for the National Consumer Council, said it would be against consumers' interests if mail orders were included in the directive.

**Man drove away with stolen aircraft parts**  
From Our Correspondent  
Bristol

A man drove into the Rolls-Royce engine division at Patchway, near Bristol, unchallenged, picked up four aircraft engine components that were lying on the ground and drove off. He was caught at Trowbridge Magistrates' Court, Avon, yesterday. They were later sold for scrap for £14.

## Judge outlines issues at Windscale inquiry

From Pearce Wright  
Science Editor  
Whitehaven

The gravity of the issues surrounding the proposal to build a new type of nuclear reactor, known as a "fast" reactor, at Windscale, Cumbria, which would cost £500m was made clear yesterday by Mr. Justice Parker, inspector of a public inquiry to open at Whitehaven on June 14.

In a meeting called to explain the procedures for the examination: "This inquiry is in many ways unique, for the issues to be investigated may affect not only those already alive and working in the industry, but also those who live far away and those who will not be born for many years ahead."

Mr. Justice Parker was addressing a formidable assembly of legal experts. The O.C. of the inquiry, Sir Frank Legg, said the nature of the actual operation of the proposed plant and disposal of waste were also within the scope of the inquiry. It also appeared inevitable that such matters as safety, risk, industrial planning and so on would, at least to some extent, fall within its scope.

Friends of the Earth, Mr. David Widdicombe, for the Windscale Appeal, and Mr. George Deery, for the Attorney General of the Isle of Man.

The question is whether British Nuclear Fuels should be allowed to build a plant to process spent enriched nuclear fuel to separate uranium for re-use in the nuclear fuel cycle and for use in a new generation of reactors, and the radioactive wastes needing safe storage for thousands of years.

Mr. Justice Parker said that if he was to consider the implications of the development for the safety of the public it was plain that they included the transport and storage of spent fuel before reprocessing and any hazards involved in those operations. The hazards, whether to personal safety or to the environment, of the actual operation of the proposed plant and disposal of waste were also within the scope of the inquiry. It also appeared inevitable that such matters as safety, risk, industrial planning and so on would, at least to some extent, fall within its scope.

**Burglaries up a quarter in value last year**  
By Our Crime Correspondent

Every two or three minutes of the day and night a home somewhere in Britain is burgled, according to the British Insurance Association.

Last year a total of £22.4m in cash and valuables was stolen from private houses. The trend seems to be increasing. In the past five years the value of stolen goods has trebled and last year alone, the figures showed an increase of a quarter on 1975.

The association's figures indicate that more than £50,000 in valuables is stolen by burglars every 24 hours.

Mr. Patrick Bartram, chairman of the association's crime prevention panel, said: "It is the opportunity thief looking for easy pickings who will commit nearly three-quarters of these burglaries."

A survey by the association shows that nearly a third of burglaries are committed by thieves who enter through the front door.

**'Urgent need' for six-month pension review**

A six-monthly review of pensions is urged by Miss Betty Millard, president of the National Federation of Old Age Pensions Associations. She told its annual conference at Margate yesterday: "Never has our claim for a pension of one third of the gross average wage for a single person and one-half for a married couple been more clearly justified."

"There is also the added urgent need for a six-monthly review of pensions."

## Ports 'feed' drug addiction in Cambridge

By Our Health Services Correspondent

New cases of drug dependency, 3.6 in every 100,000 population in the country as a whole, are 23.56 in Cambridge, and 33.33 in Peterborough. Dr. David Muller, consultant psychiatrist and chairman of the Cambridge-shire Committee for Coordination of Drug Dependency Services, said yesterday.

Cambridge and an area of about fifteen miles around it has a population of about 200,000 and Peterborough one of 108,000. Dr. Muller added that only about a tenth of the total of drug-takers were known to official organizations.

Addicts in Cambridgeshire, he said, spent up to £70 a week on drugs, money mainly obtained by theft, muggings and drug peddling.

The figures included not only the hard drugs but such drugs as cannabis and the barbiturates. But people who wanted to make cannabis legal did not know what they were doing. We were becoming too complacent about drugs. The Department of Health wanted to "look the other way" and appeared to be more concerned about alcohol consumption.

Reasons for the high numbers in Cambridgeshire were the proximity of ports, such as Harwich, Felixstowe, King's Lynn and Lowestoft, through which there was considerable smuggling from Continental suppliers; both Cambridge and Peterborough were easily accessible from London; and Peterborough had a new town development with a proportion of immigrants settling there.

One man he had seen, from the Khyber Pass, had been used to smoking opium for 36 years. Dr. Muller said drug dependency was not much of a problem among the undergraduates of Cambridge University. His committee helped those people who wanted to be helped and tried to educate the public on dangers of drug abuse.

**Lady Compton's decree**

Lady Compton, wife of Lord Compton, heir to Lord Northampton, was granted a decree nisi in London yesterday on the ground that the marriage had broken down because of Lord Compton's adultery.

## Cancer test techniques 'approach the ultimate'

By Our Health Services Correspondent

Physical tests for cancer are probably reaching the ultimate in technique and already contribute enormously to the correct diagnosis and localization of the common malignant diseases, Mr. Michael Baum, senior lecturer at the University Hospital of Wales, said in London yesterday.

In a paper at the annual symposium of the Marie Curie Memorial Foundation he said that with this improvement in accuracy techniques had also tended to become safer and less arduous for patients.

Professor Dennis Parke, head of the department of radiochemistry at Surrey University said that many of the approaches to the treatment of cancer were being made. One exciting study was of the needs of cancer patients for thiamine and ascorbic acid.

At the Marie Curie Foundation it had been shown that enzymes from malignant tumours were immunologically different from normal host enzymes. The effects of antisera on those enzymes were being tested.

Mr. Ronald Raven, consultant surgeon at the Royal Marsden Hospital, London, criticised sym-

thetic cigarettes. Smokers would still inhale the products of combustion and would still be in danger, he said. If people felt that a synthetic cigarette was safer, they would continue to smoke and might go back to all-tobacco cigarettes.

People had to be persuaded to stop smoking, not to substitute one smoking habit for another. The Government should act with a complete smoking-control programme, and tobacco should be priced out of the market.

Speaking on industrial cancer, Professor Richard Alderson, professor of epidemiology, Institute of Cancer Research, London, said cancer control in industry depended on collaboration among industry, Government and the public.

A specific relationship between a chemical agent and a cancer could not be the only criterion for action. If the relative risk of a disease was remote more harm might be done to the community by closing a plant and worrying thousands of people by condemning their exposure to an agent whose impact upon disease was negligible, even though that agent could be shown to cause cancer when injected into small animals in large doses.

## Union to launch offensive in the catering industry

From Arthur Osman  
Birmingham

Mr. Alan Law, regional trade group secretary of the Transport and General Workers' Union in Birmingham, who has moulded his lorry driver members from a potent and much-feared force, announced yesterday that in future he would be dealing with the hotel business including Trust Houses Forte (THF), with which the union has been in dispute for several months.

The TGWU is seeking a larger membership among the estimated million potential recruits in the hotel and catering industry and it appears that the aggressive approach that Mr. Law employed in the road haulage industry will be enshrined in the new campaign.

Mr. Law, who has not, in the past, shown the highest regard for the press, summoned reporters to interview him at the dispute at TGWU's Night Out there restaurant, in Birmingham, which is now in the hands of the Advisory Conciliation and Arbitration Service. The union has lifted its ban on supplies to other THF establishments, notably fuel supplies to motorway restaurants, while the inquiry is held.

The Night Out dispute began when a waitress was dismissed, allegedly for rudeness to customers. She had been trying to recruit workmates into the TGWU.

Mr. Law said: "We have told THF we will go to arbitration only if they will reinstate her. We are bending over backwards to help THF to save face; the saving of face for a manage-

ment that has made a decision and is not going to know how to get out of it. They are saying 'no' because they are not skilled enough professionally to know how to say 'yes'."

He said THF had refused to give each of the strikers two years to pay a total of £26,000, as an alternative to reemploying them. He pointed out that the company had spent £30,000 on advertising its view of the dispute.

Asked about people who might not want to join the union in the new drive, he said: "They will be in sooner or later, as soon as they wake up and see the light. I am quite confident about the future of the industry. They have been used to pawns and we shall welcome them with open arms."

Mr. Law, aged 53, a former lorry driver, made his reputation in the transport industry by dealing with tactics that included black lists, lightning strikes and demands for large pay rises, the alternative of closure.

Strike ends: A prolonged strike at the Randolph Hotel, Oxford, which is owned by THF, ended yesterday.

Eight members of the staff accepted payments of £300 to £500 from THF and agreed to call off the strike, which began 23 weeks ago.

Mr. Geoffrey Hulet, district officer for the Transport and General Workers' Union, said other hotels should not be complacent, for the union would continue to fight for members and recognition. The dispute began over the dismissal of chambermaids.

Mr. Peter Spencer, for the Director of Public Prosecutions, said they barricaded themselves in a changing room with Mr. Francis, who was bound. The defendants said they wanted to read statements in which they admitted the killing because Mr. Francis had sexually assaulted a friend.

## Broadmoor men accused of siege murder

From Our Correspondent  
Reading

Two Broadmoor patients strangled a fellow inmate during a 10-hour siege, magistrates at Bracknell, Berkshire, were told yesterday.

David Chessman, aged 32, and Robert Mawdsley, aged 28, appeared before the court for criminal proceedings on a charge of murdering David Francis, aged 26, during the siege last February. Both were

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HOME NEWS

# Poll shows Tameside parents want grammar schools to be retained

From Our Correspondent  
Ashton-under-Lyne

In the first referendum of its kind in Britain a large majority of parents at Tameside, Greater Manchester, have said they wish grammar school education to be retained, as opposed to a fully comprehensive system.

At a press conference yesterday Councilor Donald Thorpe said that figures obtained in a referendum of parents, conducted by the council, showed that 87.5 per cent of parents wanted to retain grammar schools. The council had asked parents to vote in favour of grammar schools, or to favour a fully comprehensive system.

Mr Thorpe said the referendum was held on the basis of a survey of 1,000 parents, which concluded with the local authority's retaining its five grammar schools.

He said the survey, a non-partisan one, conducted by Tameside education officers, showed that parents had voted in favour of grammar schools. The council had asked parents to vote in favour of grammar schools, or to favour a fully comprehensive system.

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## Comprehensives need time to settle, minister says

By Mark Jackson, of The Times Educational Supplement

The deficiencies of school-leavers should not be attributed to the comprehensive system, the Secretary of State for Education and Science, said yesterday.

She said a conference in London of the Industrial Society, at which she had the same kind of complaints from employers in Germany, which had a very selective school system of the kind that Britain used to have, were similar complaints throughout the United States and Western Europe.

Part of the trouble was that schools had needed time to settle down from the effects of change and from the raising of the leaving age. Those in industry who knew how long it took a company to recover from the effects of one amalgamation or merger should be able to understand what had happened because of these re-organisations.

Like industry, the teaching profession felt it was being pushed about and expected to do all sorts of things.

Mrs Williams said there were indications that literacy was being pushed about and expected to do all sorts of things.

Mrs Williams said there were indications that literacy was being pushed about and expected to do all sorts of things.

# Pupils 'lack knowledge of industrial world'

From Tim Devlin  
Education Correspondent  
Gloucester

Schoolchildren are so biased against industry by what they read and see in the media and go ignorant about it that it is impossible to talk to them, Mr David Logan, education officer of the TUC, said yesterday.

Mr Logan, who has visited schools regularly during the last four years, told the Boarding Schools Association conference at Gloucester: "I am incapable of talking to them because they have not the basic elements of the language of work and economics."

He said schoolchildren had a biased idea from the media that trade unionists were holding the country to ransom and it was impossible to talk to them out of their ignorance of the language of work and economics.

"I cannot explain to them that Ford workers' pay is in part determined by the fact that people choose to spend more money on more cars than on food," he said.

Teachers should concentrate on the political and economic knowledge of industry, he said, and teach statistics, which was the most useful form of mathematics.

He also criticized university and polytechnic authorities for not admitting more adult students to science and technical courses and referred to the Prime Minister's speech on education last October, which reported that there were 30,000 empty science and technological places in higher education.

"Rather than giving these places to British working men and women, universities and polytechnics will allow these places to go empty or will sell them to foreign students, some of whom are our competitors," Mr Logan said.

He concluded that Britain spent only £42m a year on adult education, which was about as much as was spent on Oxbridge to keep it in the style to which it was accustomed.

Mr R. A. Shepherd, training manager for Ford Motor Company, said Britain had lost the greatest opportunity since the war with the raising of the school-leaving age to bridge the gap between school and work. We had had the chance to free education from the grasp of academics and put it into the hands of vocational educationists.

Teachers in training should do a spell on the shop floor before teaching. It was the only way for them to get a knowledge of industry. Add industrial training to teaching practice in our training programmes and extend it from three to four years, Mr Logan urged.



Thames occasion: Barges with flags at their mastheads sailing under Tower Bridge yesterday after the Lord Mayor of London, Sir Robin Gillert, had raised HMS Belfast's jubilee flag to herald the Queen's silver jubilee celebrations.

## Schools urged to foster 'morality of delivery dates'

By Robert Doe, of The Times Educational Supplement

Schools should encourage competition, discipline, biblical morality and "the morality of delivery dates", Mr Thomas Howarth, senior tutor at Magdalene College, Cambridge, said yesterday.

He was addressing an audience invited to the House of Commons by Mr Norman St John-Stevas.

"Appropriate parts" of the Bible should be made central to the curriculum.

The classroom "should be a place where results are expected against a certain time schedule". Children should learn "that your second best is not good enough".

# Homeless couple made suicide pact

A recently married young couple were driven to a suicide pact because they could not find a home they could afford, a judge was told yesterday.

The husband, Nicholas Sperring, who was 18, died.

His wife, Linda, aged 24, survived to appear at the Central Criminal Court yesterday, accused of aiding and abetting the suicide of her husband between January 10 and 13 this year. She pleaded guilty and was placed on probation for two years.

Mr Justice Talbot told her: "It is clear there was this background of unhappiness but you must know it is never right to solve your problems that way. My duty on behalf of the country is not to send you to prison but to put you on the road to a decent way of life."

Mr Jeremy Connor, for the prosecution, said the couple took a massive overdose of drugs after they had booked into the Ariel Hotel near Heathrow, when they were cold, penniless and had nowhere to go.

When found by hotel staff the husband was dead and his wife almost dying. When ambulance men arrived she had stopped breathing and it was only their prompt action that saved her.

She now lives with her parents at Eastbourne Gardens, Hanworth, west London.

Mr Connor said the case involved "the tragic events representing the close relationship between a young man of 18 and his wife of 24, which came to an end in a suicide pact."

The couple were married in November last year. They met after she had finished a relationship with another young man. They planned to get married but had difficulties finding somewhere to live and as a result she tried to commit suicide.

Mrs Sperring was working for a record company when she first met her husband, who came into the office to repair the central heating. They got married soon afterwards.

Mr Connor said there were many discussions about whether they could get a mortgage or a home of their own. They moved to the home of the wife's parents but Mr Sperring could not get work in the area.

When they moved into a flat they were unable to pay the heating bills. At Christmas they discussed the possibility of committing suicide, the reason being that they did not want to be parted, Mr Connor said.

On January 7 they went to a public house, where they obtained a large amount of barbiturates. They then booked themselves in at the hotel Mrs Sperring had a pen in her hand and had written: "Dear Mum and Dad, we decided this way is the only way out. Now we can be together. Someone has to go first. Don't blame yourselves, it was our decision. I love you all. I am writing this because Nicholas is not capable."

In the note she said her husband put up the money to pay for the drugs.

Mr Frederick Joseph, for the defence, said: "They were happy between themselves but they were desperately unhappy about financial matters and housing."

They had made various attempts to find somewhere of their own. They went to housing agents and had put their names on the council list. "They certainly could not afford private accommodation. It is a very tragic and sad story."

# Living costs of poor 'have risen fastest'

By Our Social Policy Correspondent

The cost of living of the poorest households has risen by almost 5 per cent more than that of the richest since the beginning of the social contract, the Low Pay Unit says in evidence presented yesterday to the Royal Commission on the Distribution of Income and Wealth.

That is because the prices of necessities, on which the poor spend a larger proportion of their budgets, have been rising faster than those of goods that feature prominently in the spending of the better-off, the unit says.

Last year, for example, food costs increased by 23.5 per cent, compared with a general inflation rate of 16.6 per cent. Butter, margarine and lard increased by 40 per cent, vegetables by 37 per cent, tea and coffee by 36 per cent and fish and dairy products by a quarter. But the cost of motoring increased by only 13 per cent, and that of household consumer goods by 11.5 per cent.

The unit presents a special cost-of-living index calculated on the basis of the different spending patterns of high and low income groups. It shows that prices rose by 7.8 per cent for the low-paid (the poorest tenth of households) in the three years since the social contract began.

The index for the higher-paid registered an increase of 73.2 per cent. The difference of 4.6 per cent, the unit notes, is almost equivalent to the limit on wage rises specified for the second stage of the pay policy.

Over the past year, price rises for the low-paid were 17.8 per cent, compared with 16.6 per cent for the high-paid.

The unit argues that its indices still underestimate differences between the changes in living costs of the low-paid and high-paid, and says the gap will increase with the expected food and fuel price increases in the coming months.

It has appealed to the Government to publish a special cost-of-living index for the low-paid.

Mr Frank Field, the unit's director, believes that a national minimum wage should be established.

Leading article, page 17

## Shoplifter had £3,546

Mrs Rosa Gleizer, aged 40, a Brazilian on holiday in London, was carrying £3,546 in mixed currencies when she stole goods valued at £6.96 from a Marks and Spencer store. It was stated at Marlborough Street Magistrates' Court yesterday. She was fined the maximum of £400, with £20 costs.

# Performance is one way to shorten a journey. Comfort is another.



Take a BMW Five Series on a long journey, through city traffic, crowded motorways and winding country lanes and you'll soon realise the value of its comfort and performance. Any situation seems to be taken care of powerfully and effortlessly. Performance and comfort keep driver and passengers relaxed and refreshed.

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comfort, ventilation and space are exceptional. Great attention has been paid to the driver's position. He has an excellent view of the road and the sense of complete mastery over the car. The 528 has, as standard, speed related power steering - the power assistance is at maximum for parking yet reduces at speed to give road 'feel'.

As with all BMWs considerable research has gone into both 'passive' and 'active' safety. Should the worst happen the car has an overall integrated system to absorb impact energy. But the chances that this should happen are dramatically reduced because of the car's handling and response to the driver. The pleasure of driving the car also acts as a positive safety factor since it keeps the driver interested in and concentrating on the road.

The effect of the Five Series' balance of comfort and performance is to make every journey safer and shorter not only in real time, but also in the time one feels one has been driving. Ironically, the car gives so much pleasure that one usually feels that the journey has been too short.

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1.2 million in 1976



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## WEST EUROPE French opposition parties manage to preserve fragile unity despite disagreements over policy

From Charles Hargrove  
Paris, May 17  
The meeting of the leaders of the three French opposition parties, which took place today in the headquarters of the left Radical Party, had been expected to be one of the toughest in the varied life of the union of the Left since the signature of the "common programme" in 1972.

However, the left has once again shown its resilience in the face of recent tensions between Socialists and Communists, and has held the hopes of the Government, which thought that today's meeting would show a disintegration of the union.

The meeting, which lasted for a day and a half, was held to plan the updating of the programme drafted five years ago and acknowledged by all its authors to be no longer in tune with the political and economic developments.

## Berlingske talks are inal, ditor says

From Our Correspondent  
Copenhagen, May 17  
After three and a half weeks of conflict, the Berlingske Tidende management and printing staff were today involved in what were described as final negotiations.

## Nine extend herring ban in North Sea

From Michael Hornsby  
Brussels, May 17  
The Nine have agreed to extend until June 30 the ban on the fishing of herring in the North Sea, which had been due to expire at the end of this month.

The eating of *Murjes* (salted herring) in June is an ancient custom in Holland, a festival of fish being ceremonially presented to Queen Juliana at the beginning of the season.

## Bomb blast before Mondale visit

From Our Correspondent  
Madrid, May 17  
A bomb damaged the American Cultural Centre here early today a few hours before Vice-President Walter Mondale arrived in Madrid for talks with Spanish Prime Minister, King Juan Carlos.

## Nato nations urged to pay more for defence

Brussels, May 17.—Mr Harold Brown, the United States Secretary of Defence, told American European allies today that President Carter expects Nato member countries to make substantial increases in defence spending.

## Brussels 'inquisition' of ritish commissioner

From Our Own Correspondent  
Brussels, May 17  
The European Commission today launched an inquiry into the conduct of Mr. John Gorman, the British Commissioner for Agriculture.

## German defence of duty-free 'butter ships'

Brussels, May 17.—Herr Josef Erdl, the West German Minister of Agriculture, today warned his EEC colleagues not to tamper with the duty-free sale of butter on passenger ships operating out of German ports.

## Oporto student shot during clash of political factions

From Our Correspondent  
Lisbon, May 17  
A student was shot in the leg and several policemen injured during a clash between left and right-wing factions in Oporto this afternoon.

## Gunmen seize radio station

Ponta Delgada, Azores, May 17.—Three armed men took over a small radio station in these Portuguese islands in the Atlantic for a short time today and broadcast separatist propaganda.

## OVERSEAS

## Thousands of Israelis still undecided as voters go to polls

By Eric Marsden  
Jerusalem, May 17  
Nearly half a million of Israel's 2,236,293 voters were estimated to be still undecided which party to support when polling stations opened today, and party leaders feared that abstentions would be higher than in 1973.

consider negotiating with the Arabs on territorial concessions. This seems doubtful in view of the expected closeness of the result.

Mr Edward Heath with Anneliese Rothenberger, the German singer, in Hamburg. He is to appear on her television show.

## Mr Edward Heath with Anneliese Rothenberger, the German singer, in Hamburg. He is to appear on her television show.

## One fifth of Lebanon's officers want to go

Beirut, May 17.—About one in five of Lebanon's officer corps have offered to resign under a three-month Army rebuilding scheme which ended at midnight, Defence Ministry sources said today.

Under a special decree, aimed at rebuilding the Army, the Government need not accept all the resignations offered and also has the power, over the next three months, to suspend any officer not on the list.



## The growth of two classic styles of sherry.

Today, as you read your newspaper, white Palomino grapes are in their early stages of growth on the gently rolling hills around Jerez de la Frontera.

Certain mostos will develop flor (yeast on the surface of the young wine), others will not. Only those that do will ultimately become finos or amontillados.

LUNCHEON DRY & CLUB AMONTILLADO  
from Harveys of Bristol

## OVERSEAS

# President Carter defends his caution on social reform and tries to placate liberal critics

From Fred Emery  
Washington, May 17

President Carter today flew to California to defend his caution in domestic policies, to reiterate his commitment to social reform but to warn his liberal critics in the Democratic Party: "We can't afford to do everything."

In his first visit to the nation's most populous state as President, he began an arduous day with an address to the United Autoworkers convention in Los Angeles. Mr Carter declared that unemployment and inflation must be attacked simultaneously. "If we don't attack them together we won't be able to put a real dent in either."

However, anathema to him, "I am unalterably opposed to fighting inflation by economic and budgetary policies which keep unemployment high and factories idle. That approach is economically ineffective."

He then added, for those liberals who have been worried at his withdrawal of the original economic stimulus package: "If the recovery should falter during the years ahead I will propose the economic and budgetary measures needed."

Mr Carter recalled most of his election promises and pronounced everything to be on track.

The President today did not exactly meet the criticism. "We are aiming to submit legislative proposals early next year," he said. He promised immediately to try to bring soaring hospital costs under some control, but he made clear the overall reform would be drawn out, established only "during my time in office."

He also vouched the way he had opened up the Government. He said he had enjoyed doing such things as meeting people who normally never met, presidents and talking "publicly about foreign matters that were formerly considered too secret and complicated for the ears of the American people."

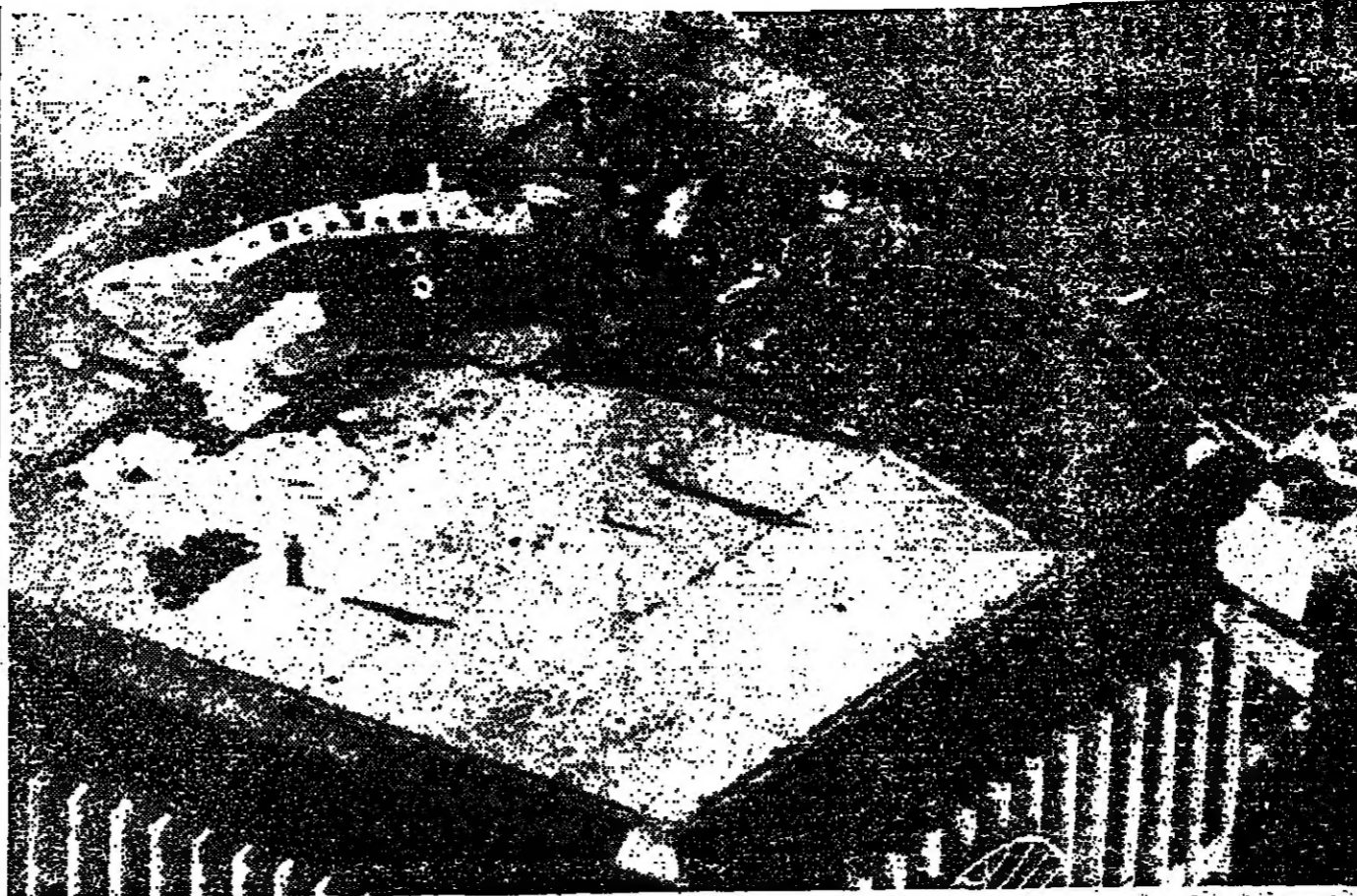
In his speech to the union Carrer was characteristically undaunted by the domestic problems ahead. But he wanted it to be very clear that he would stick to his declared approach. The problems could be solved, the country could be fiscally responsible and still satisfy the people's needs, he said. "If we remember that nothing comes easily or quickly, that we must make hard

choices about how to use our resources, and that only lean, efficient government can translate our good intentions into actions that will improve the lives of our people."

Mr Carter had earlier explained that in aiming, by 1981, to balance the federal government's budget, which is continually in large deficit, he was not some carbon copy of a Republican spending curter. His programmes have occasionally been compared to Mr Ford's. His balance would mainly come from increased revenues, not spending cuts, he said.

Mr Carter also had special words about energy, his conservation plan and petrol consumption, for this union of vehicle builders. It has been disgruntled over the "gas guzzler" tax proposed for large inefficient cars, as well as dismayed by the rebates proposed for small cars, which would favour imports.

The President boldly flattered them in saying: "I know you agree that the solution is not to erect trade barriers to keep out foreign competition." He went on: "The solution lies in using our great American ingenuity to design and produce the right cars for the future."



Ferrying passengers by helicopter from New York's airports to the Pan American skyscraper in Manhattan has stopped after Monday's disaster in which five people died when a helicopter toppled over; its rotor still turning. In the photograph, rescue squads look at the wreckage.

## US commentator praises Sir Peter

New York, May 17.—Sir Peter Ramsbotham, the British Ambassador, is regarded in Washington's little world as one of the wisest, most trusted emissaries Britain has sent to the United States in recent decades, Eric Sevareid, the CBS news commentator, said tonight.

Commenting on the controversy in Britain over the appointment of Mr Peter Jay to replace Sir Peter, Mr Sevareid described Mr Jay as a "man endowed with many gifts—save, possibly, self-effacement."

Mr Sevareid said: "Americans are supposed to be loud, outspoken, uninhibited—the English courteous, restrained, upper lip and all that. In the

little worlds of press and politics, the reverse is the truth. Congressional debates are tea parties compared to the ferocious exchange of insults in the House of Commons. The Fleet Street press is raucous compared to American papers."

"A dozen years ago or so, a new American Embassy chancery went up in Grosvenor Square. It was designed in the London press and Parliament too big, too vulgar, too different."

"They have just built their new embassy chancery on Massachusetts Avenue, along what is possibly the liveliest stretch of street in America. It looked like a modernistic factory building. Raucous

America was silently polite about it."

"Right now, the two countries are exchanging ambassadors. They get Kingman Brewster of Yale, a gentleman who does no violence whatever to the diplomatic scenery—we get Peter Jay... a man endowed with many gifts, save, possibly, self-effacement."

"Again, ferocity in Fleet Street and Parliament over their man, not ours. Again restraint in Washington—because it's their business and because Mr Jay seems competent enough. American annoyance concerns not Jay, but British word of mouth attacks on... Sir Peter Ramsbotham."

—Reuter.

## President's tax Bill passed by Congress

From Our Own Correspondent  
Washington, May 17

President Carter's proposal to stimulate the economy by reducing taxes has at last got through Congress. The two houses finally approved the Bill yesterday and Mr Carter will sign it when he returns to Washington tomorrow.

Taxes on individuals and businesses will be cut by about £24,000m during the next three years. Originally, Mr Carter also wanted to give almost £30 to everyone, in a once and for all tax rebate. But the idea met

strong opposition in the Senate and the President dropped it, saying the economy was improving faster than expected and the rebate was unnecessary.

It is thought that 46,000,000 taxpayers will pay £65 less in tax annually.

Meanwhile, the joint committee of the House of Representatives and Senate has agreed on Government spending levels for next fiscal year. In a compromise on defence spending the committee finally agreed on £65,290m. Mr Carter had asked for £65,823m but that figure was defeated in the Congress.

## Britain argues case for more talks on Africa

From Nicholas Ashford  
Maputo, May 17

Mr Edward Rowlands, Minister of State at the Foreign and Commonwealth Office, said here today that Britain would work urgently to achieve peaceful settlements in Rhodesia and Namibia (South West Africa) by the end of next year.

Speaking first on behalf of the countries of the European Economic Community and then on behalf of the British Government, he told the United Nations conference in support of the peoples of Zimbabwe and Namibia: "The commitment is to majority rule in 1978. There can be no backsliding on that."

Mr Rowlands's visit to Maputo to attend the conference has been widely criticised in Opposition circles in Britain. However, his speech today, while not containing any more "liberalistic" rhetoric than might usually be heard in a House of Commons debate, was the epitome of moderation compared with some other conference contributions.

He made two points. First, that Britain remained fully committed to independence and majority rule in southern Africa. He emphasised that Britain's presence at the Maputo meeting demonstrated continuing deep interest in the issues of race and freedom.

Second, he stated that in Britain's view armed struggle was not the only way of resolving southern Africa's problems. Even at this eleventh hour, as he put it, freedom in Rhodesia and Namibia could be established by negotiation rather than by the gun.

Any chance of a negotiated settlement must be seized. Even if an armed struggle were to end in independence it would take years and would certainly cost thousands of lives.

Mr Rowlands spoke out the nature of the latest settlement initiative on Rhodesia launched by Dr Owen's Foreign Secretary. In close consultation with the United States, a "British diplomat, Mr John Graham, was to conduct intensive discussions with all the parties concerned. Following which a constitution would be drafted and presented to the British Parliament.

The constitution would ensure majority rule and safeguard

fundamental human rights of all Zimbabweans of whatever race. Its aim was independence for Rhodesia after free and fair elections.

Mr Rowlands was applauded by a majority of delegates when he finished speaking. He also received a warm handshake from Mr Andrew Young, the United States representative at the United Nations, who arrived here last night and is due to address the conference on Thursday.

"Whether any of the so-called 'terrorist' leaders present at the conference desired any encouragement from Mr Rowlands's appearance, as some Opposition MPs have claimed, is uncertain."

However, the minister did have private talks today with Mr Robert Mugabe, joint leader of the Patriotic Front of Rhodesia, and Mr Sam Nujoma, president of the South-West Africa People's Organisation (SWAPO), at which he argued Britain's case for a peaceful transfer of power in both territories.

British diplomats have been encouraged by what they believe to be a slightly more flexible attitude being taken by Mr Nujoma on the latest Western initiative on Namibia, although at press conferences today he seemed to swing back to a more militant position than in his speech to the meeting yesterday.

Mr Mugabe is proving a much tougher nut to crack. But the fact that he saw Mr Rowlands today is taken as a sign that he has not so far failed to make much impression.

Our Lisbon Correspondent writes: The extension by the Mozambique authorities of the time allowed for Portuguese residents to leave has somewhat relieved tension here over the fate of thousands still waiting for transport. They should have left by May 16 but finding space on existing scheduled flights for 20,000 or more people, proved impossible.

## Whites vote on sharing power in Namibia poll

From Our Correspondent  
Johannesburg, May 17

A turnout of up to 70 per cent was being predicted tonight as whites in Namibia (South West Africa) voted in a referendum testing their acceptance of the constitutional design produced by the multiracial Turnhalle Conference.

Turnhalle delegates have said that a big vote in favour of the Turnhalle decision would indicate to the world and to other groups in Namibia that the whites are in earnest about power sharing.

Windhoek, May 17.—Two brothers died yesterday when their lorry detonated a mine which South African sources believed had been laid by guerrillas of the South-West African People's Organisation.

## British envoy in discussions on Rhodesia

—Lusaka, May 17.—Mr John Graham, a British special envoy and head of the Anglo-American consultative group in southern Africa, flew into Zambia today to launch a new initiative aimed at a peaceful transfer of power in Rhodesia.

He is here for talks with President Kaunda. Mr Graham said he came for explanatory and exploratory consultations with all parties concerned with the creation of "a Zimbabwe with a non-racial society."

Mr Graham is due to fly to Botswana tomorrow for talks with Bishop Abel Muzorewa, the Rhodesian nationalist leader. He will later travel to Salisbury for talks with Mr Smith. Mr Graham will be joined on these visits by Mr Steven Low, the United States Ambassador to Zambia.—Reuter.

## Mr Vorster hopes to compromise with US

From Our Correspondent  
Cape Town, May 17

Mr Vorster, the South African Prime Minister, is approaching his meeting in Vienna with Vice-President Mondale of the United States in a spirit of confrontation.

The Prime Minister, who flew to Vienna today, also made it clear that he was not going to "take orders" from the United States.

However, in spite of some rhetoric on both sides—and the diplomatic controversy over the forthcoming unofficial visit to Johannesburg by Mr Andrew Young, the American Ambassador to the United Nations, the meeting may well take place on Thursday in a better spirit than might have been expected.

Observers here have noted that Mr Mondale has been choosing his words with care, talking about "partial participation" rather than "major rule" in South Africa, a string of words which invariably raises South African hackles.

There have also been signs that the Carter Administration is taking a keener interest in the area of Southern Africa, is anxious not to drive Mr Vorster into a corner. The United States, which seeks South African co-operation in the Western initiatives to bring independence to Namibia (South-West Africa) and Rhodesia, is not, it appears, going to demand immediate progress towards black majority rule in South Africa itself.

South Africa's internal affairs will certainly be on the agenda in Vienna. Mr Vorster indicated yesterday that he prepared to discuss his policies with anybody—but there seems to be no disposition on either side to indulge in a fruitless singing match.

Mr Vorster will no doubt emphasise that Mr Mondale's comments about the spread of Apartheid influence in Africa, a plea which South Africans feel should evoke a ready response in Washington.

The Prime Minister's readiness to cooperate with the United States and Britain in moving towards independence for Namibia and in promoting a Rhodesia settlement has been apparent for some time.

On the Namibian question, South Africa appears to be prepared to assist the Western initiative. The Republic is being as helpful as possible in systems, in accepting demands for free elections in Namibia under some form of Western supervision. But there are still some problems about the independence process in the territory with the question of an interim government unresolved.

On Rhodesia, heightened tensions on the Zambia-Rhodesia-Botswana borders in the last few days have added urgency to Dr Owen's new settlement efforts. Here South Africa wants to be helpful in exercising whatever influence it has in Salisbury, but Mr Vorster must keep careful note of white public opinion, which might react badly to overt signs of pressure on Mr Ian Smith.

Mr R. F. Botha, the foreign Minister, is accompanying Mr Vorster to Vienna. He is one of the younger generation of nationalist politicians and is expected to bring more flexibility and imagination to South Africa's foreign relations.

Mr Botha recently won a landslide by-election victory in an extremely tight contest in the Johannesburg constituency of Westdene.

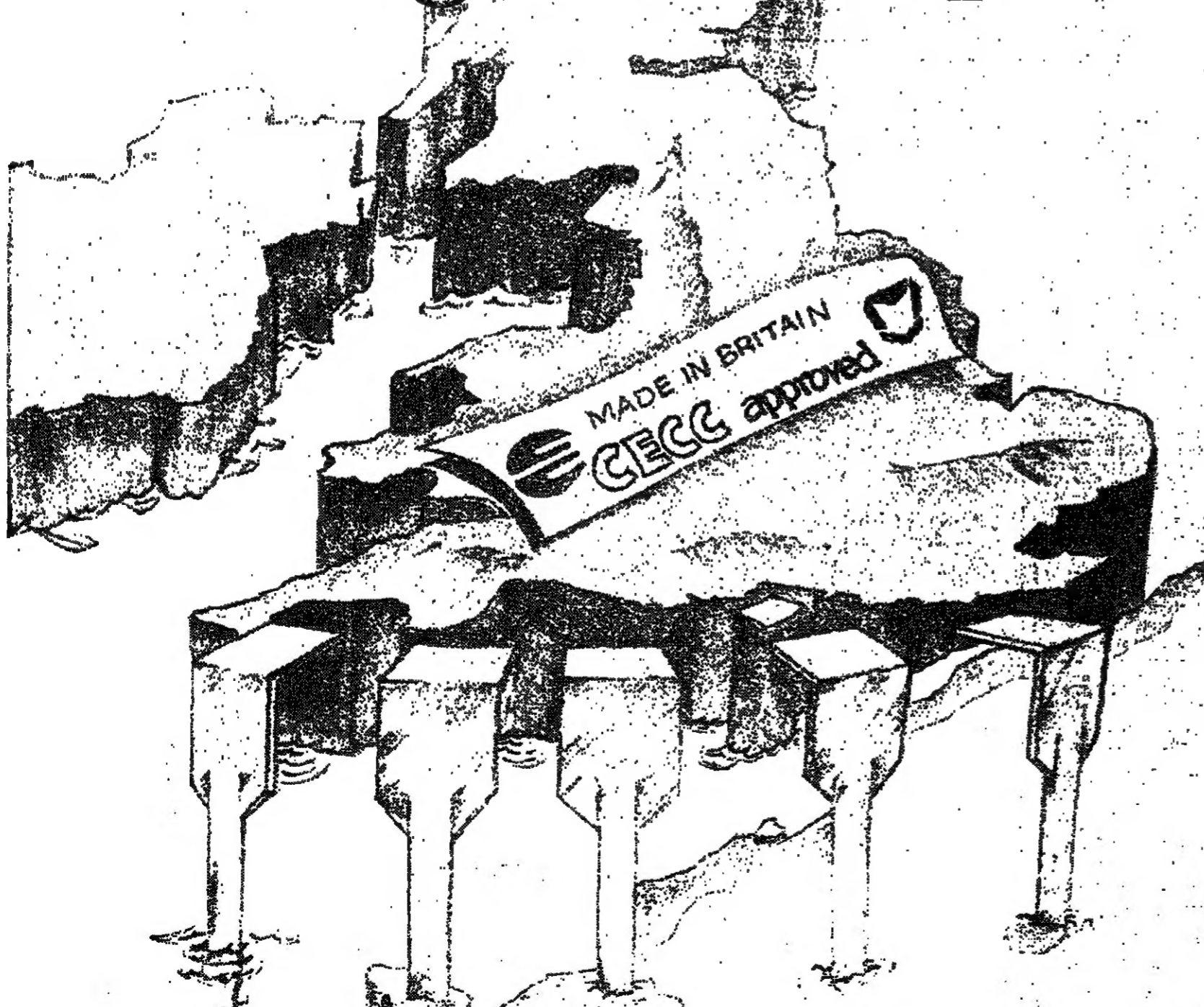
In response to Mr Mondale's questions in Vienna about the progress of the South African Government's declared programme to move away from race discrimination, Mr Vorster will be able to point to his institution of a commission of inquiry to review the whole spectrum of discriminatory labour legislation, which was announced a week ago.

Mr Vorster and Mr Botha are expected to argue that a movement away from race discrimination is proceeding steadily.

## Black children fly to Moscow

Lusaka, May 17.—A Soviet aircraft left here today for Moscow with more than 100 black Rhodesian teenagers aboard. The flight security was tight and reporters were not allowed to question the children, but airport sources said they were going for guerrilla training and education in the Soviet Union. They believed that most of the children, aged between 15 and 18, were among those who vanished at the end of January from the Manama mission school in Rhodesia.—Reuter.

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## OVERSEAS Vorster Red Cross mission was deceived over Indonesian prison conditions, smuggled letter claims

**David Watts**  
A remarkable picture of life in the political prisons of Indonesia, and of the deceptions practised to mislead a team from the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) which visited the camps earlier this year, has emerged in a letter smuggled to the West.

The letter, 16 folios long, was written by a prominent detainee, warning the Red Cross of how prison camps were being transformed in preparation for a visit; to give details of torture and primitive conditions and to catalogue some 20,000 deaths in the camps since the attempted communist coup of 1965.

Partly as a result of the letter, the Red Cross has taken an unusual step of commenting internationally on one of its visits. Normally, the Red Cross is silent on its reports to the government concerned and any denials emerge only if that government wants them to be made public.

In its May 4 bulletin, the ICRC says that it "drew the attention of the authorities to the fact that its delegates had been told that the conditions of detention in Indonesia were good; the limited number of places visited and the difficulties encountered in the visit".

The committee goes on: "The ICRC will continue its visits to places of detention in Indonesia on the condition that these difficulties are overcome."

Living details of 26 prisoners moved from the isolation block at Salemba prison, one of the worst, the letter also mentions the removal of Dr. Pradjo, the former Minister of Foreign Affairs, and former Air Marshal Omar from Nirbaya prison

before the arrival of the delegation.

The writer says the authorities feared that they would have the courage to reveal all the secrets of the inhuman, arbitrary treatment meted out to political prisoners.

At Salemba the prisoners were given camp beds, pillows, food and utensils before the Red Cross arrived; the prisoners were told that if they were approached by the team they must not speak about their experiences but only about the present conditions in the camp.

Recreational equipment was brought into the camp, including two television sets, a loudspeaker, sports equipment and games. The isolation block where prisoners were kept in their cells 24 hours a day, was supplied with a bathroom, transferred to Budi Utomo camp and the whole camp was cleaned up and repaired.

The Government attempted to present the Red Cross with a completely false picture of the human rights afforded Indonesian prisoners, according to the writer. It is estimated that there are 100,000 political prisoners in the country and the United States Congress has labelled Indonesia one of the worst offenders against human rights in the world.

The writer estimates that 90 per cent of the prisoners have been tortured and gives details of the torture. He says there has been a steady decline in both the quality and quantity of food given to prisoners.

Initially, after the majority of the arrests in 1965, prisoners were given two packets of rice a day with few vegetables. The "midday" meal was given at about 5 pm or 6 pm and the evening meal at 11 pm.

Since 1967, the writer says, the number of deaths through beri-beri and malnutrition have increased significantly and the daily allowance has been reduced to 10 spoonfuls of bulgur wheat or 120 grams of corn with spinach and salt, the former being grown by the detainees themselves. In this latter period prisoners are said to have died at the rate of about two a day, the writer says, 15,000 prisoners have died.

At present, the daily food ration in the writer's place of detention has an estimated value of 800-1,000 calories a day except on holidays, when help is sent in by the churches or the Muslim Council, or when a tour of inspection is to be made.

The diet consists of a twice daily ration of 300 grams of rice of about 300 calories per portion, a dish of tempe, a meal made of soy beans of about 100 calories, and spinach and salt with a value of a further 100 calories. The requirement of the body to fuel metabolism, movement and work is generally regarded as 2,500 calories per day.

Some detainees get help from their families, but most do not and are prone to contract a wide variety of diseases.

The writer says that statistics on the number of prisoners freed have been misleading. In 1975 the Government announced that 2,000 people had been released whereas, according to information collected by the writer, only 150 were freed in batches of 30 to 40 people.

At the end of 1976 the release of a further 2,500 was announced but, according to the writer, only 120 were released. The balance of the announced number was made up of people who had been released in 1975 or before. Ambassadors from friendly states were invited to witness the release. "This is the shamesome way the authorities deceive them."

On release, the families of prisoners from the Jakarta area were ordered to pay administration costs. These ranged from 25,000 rupiah (\$35) for a low-ranking soldier to 1m rupiah (£1,400) for prominent prisoners. A typical peasant income is about 10,000 rupiah a year.



Prince Andrew (kneeling) in a production of "Oliver" at Lakefield College, Ontario, which he is attending until the end of June.

### In brief

#### Talks today on Chapman case

Athens, May 17.—Mr Edward Chapman, aged 66, the father of Ann Chapman, a British journalist murdered near here in 1971, arrived in Athens tonight to seek a retrial of the man convicted of the killing. He and his wife plan to meet Mr Constantine Stefanakis, the Greek Justice Minister, tomorrow to discuss the case of Nicholas Moudis, who is serving a life sentence for the murder. Mr Chapman hopes that new evidence will justify a retrial.

#### Globtik Venus suit

Manila, May 17.—The British-based owners of the oil tanker Globtik Venus, whose Filipino crew went on strike in Le Havre for international minimum wages in March, are seeking more than \$600,000 (£350,000) in compensation, the National Seamen's Board said here.

#### Shots at Turkish ship

Athens, May 17.—A Greek shore battery on the island of Samos fired on a Turkish patrol vessel trying to intercept a Greek fishing boat on Saturday night because it had violated territorial waters, the Government announced here.

#### Cairo grants asylum

Cairo, May 17.—Mr Abdul Hamid al-Bakawi, who was Prime Minister of Libya before the 1969 military coup, arrived here today from London and was granted asylum by the Egyptian Government.

#### Miss Longet sued

Denver, Colorado, May 17.—The parents of Vladimir "Spider" Sobich, the former ski champion, have filed a \$1.3m (£765,000) suit against the French singer, Claudine Longet, who was convicted in January of the negligent homicide of their son.

#### Finnish visitor

Moscow, May 17.—President Kekkonen, of Finland, arrived in Moscow today on an official visit.

## 'Kenya Airways announce the departure of their daily flight to Nairobi'

Fly to Kenya the Kenyan way!  
Flights leave London every day at 19.30  
eff. May 1st. From July 1st to Sept. 30th there is an additional flight on Sundays.  
Destinations beyond Nairobi include the fast-growing holiday spots of Mauritius and the Seychelles.  
As a member of IATA, Kenya Airways offer you all the standards of service and protection you associate with any large airline.  
For information, reservations, etc. contact your travel agent or:  
Kenya Airways,  
13 New Burlington St., London W.1.  
Phone 01-734 3865 or 01-437 8163.

HEATHROW  
Daily at 19.30



KENYA AIRWAYS

### Lebel Poles can be held for months

Warsaw, May 17.—A Polish sequester has issued an order which four members of the "Workers' Defence Committee" who were detained over the weekend can be held for three months, dissident sources said today.

The four men—Mr. Jacek Kuron, the committee's spokesman, Mr. Adam Michnik, Mr. Antoni Maciejewicz and Mr. Ryszard Nalecki—were arrested Saturday while trying to lead a student demonstration in Krakow, after the death of a student who had worked with the committee.

The authorities say that Stanislaw Pyjas, a 23-year-old student, died from a while he was drunk. Fellow students have alleged he was derided.

The order, known as a "prosecutor's sanction," was also served on Wojciech Ostrowski, who was detained in Krakow with Maciejewicz and brought to Warsaw with him.

Without the sanction, police hold people for only 48 hours. Although detainees may be released before the three months is up, if the period expires without their being sentenced and brought to trial, the sanction can be renewed.

Dissident sources said the prosecutor told Mr. Kuron's wife, Grazyna, that her husband and the others were being investigated under a penal article on contacts with organisations abroad.

Under the same law, they were recently brought to trial. Mr. Kuron, Mr. Michnik and other committee members, including Jan Jozef Lipski, who is still in detention. No one so far has been indicted for the committee was set up to help workers arrested or killed for taking part in food riots last June.—Reuters.

### Japanese ex-minister in scuffle

Tokyo, May 17.—Opposition members in the Japanese Parliament rushed at Mr. Keiichi Masuoka, the former Defence Minister, and knocked him to the floor during a controversial debate today on military bases.

Mr. Masuoka, aged 73, also had his glasses knocked off but escaped serious injury. The incident happened during discussion of a Bill involving continued use of private land on the island of Okinawa for Japanese and American bases.

Scuffling began when Mr. Masuoka, chairman of a parliamentary committee discussing the Bill, gave his casting vote to a resolution by the ruling Liberal Democratic Party to stop a question and answer session.

There was a similar incident last night when Mr. Masuoka, an LDP member, convened the committee in the hope of winning approval for the Bill to go to the Upper House.—Reuters.

### Singapore Stock Exchange

On April 4 we published a Reuters report of a speech by Mr. Lee Kuan Yew, the Prime Minister of Singapore, to the Singapore Law Society which said that Mr. Lee had sharply criticised the Singapore Stock Exchange for, among other things, protecting its own sectional interests at the expense of the public investors, and had warned of possible Government intervention.

A Reuters correction, which we did not carry, had explained that Mr. Lee had said he was quoting remarks he made in 1970. We accept that there were no grounds for the criticisms as we reported them in any event.

We regret our story was misleading in failing to make clear the context and implications of Mr. Lee's comments and wish to apologise to the chairman and committee of the Singapore Stock Exchange.

### Low prices at Christie's New York art sale

Our Own Correspondent  
New York, May 17  
Christie's held their first art sale in New York last night in an attempt to win a share of the city's growing art market. But though they raised a total of \$4,172,000, 3,000, mainly from the Impressionist and post-Impressionist paintings, the sale was regarded as disappointing.

Highest prices were \$100 for a Van Gogh, "La Jeune Femme", \$250,000 for "Baigneuse couchée" by Boudin, and \$330,000 for "Buste de femme" by Picasso.

Together 33 pictures were sold and 27 were withdrawn as bidding did not reach reserve prices set by their owners.

After the sale, Mr. Floyd, the chairman of Christie's, who conducted it, said that there was any discouragement there was no denying the prices were in most lower than the estimates people had expected. The sale for "Baigneuse couchée" for instance, had been set at \$750,000 and \$1m. Mr. as reported above.

# The lowest tar King Size

As shown in H.M. Government latest tables 1977.



Peter Stuyvesant Extra Mild  
...setting the pace in modern smoking.

\*Recommended price for 20, correct at time of going to press.

LOW TAR GROUP As defined in H.M. Government Tables.  
EVERY PACKET CARRIES A GOVERNMENT HEALTH WARNING





## SPORT

## Cricket

## Bursts by Randall not frequent enough to endanger Somerset

By John Woodcock

Cricket Correspondent

BATH, Somerset (Pps) drew

Left to make 235 to win in

three hours and a quarter.

Nottinghamshire finished with 165

for five. A draw which the bowlers

with Somerset lacking the bowling

to overcome a slow pitch and

Nottinghamshire's middle-order

batmen lacking the practice to

turn a useful start into advantage.

Taylor's declaration might have

produced a closer finish later in

the season, in faster conditions.

After Nottinghamshire had lost

Todd for no fault, to one of the

day's master bats, Hassan and

Randall added 100 for five. Hassan

scoring the early pace with his

shortarm bowling. By the time

Dredge bowled Hassan, Nottingham

had needed another 130 in

100 minutes, which, with Rice

kicking half an hour to score 50,

was soon something even suffer.

But Rice was not unhelpful

with the South African, Rice.

The best all-rounder in county

cricket he is sometimes called,

though in this match he hardly

looked it. He is one of those who

has his bat off the ground as

bowlers run up rather as Greig

does. As a bowler he is medium

pace. He is strong, obviously, and

yesterday he was clearly in his

anything it was colder than Mon-

day, though by last night the sun

had dried the ground up nicely for

the visit of the Australians today.

Rice was caught off a huge drier

behind the bowler, just before the

last hour started with Nottingham

shire at 133 for five. Randall was

still there, a hero not quite in

touch. This is going to be a diffi-

cult season for Randall with every-

one expecting him to be a regular

After a shaky start he had bursts

of playing quite freely, usually

when the bowlers were over-achiev-

ing, but they were not regular

enough to put Nottinghamshire in

serious contention. In the fourth

of the last 20 overs Randall was

caught at slip, ending at 100.

Somerset, in their second

innings, had taken 175 for four

when lunch was going. Richards

contributed a startling 28, Den-

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ning an astute 70 not out to go

with his 73 of the first innings.

Rose is 26, Denning 27; both are

left-handers, both have a lot of

left-hab. Denning is a left-handed

batter, could be marginally the

better, both, though, are well

launched on what promise to be

successful county careers.

The appearance of the

Australians today is coming out of

Federation. It is about now that

he starts to make his attempt to

become the oldest Test player

since 1945. He is 37 years old, and

6ft 6in of West Indian fast bowler.

He is also in the Somerset side.

Although contracted to play for

Letchworth at the weekends, he

calls them "Little Bird" up

there. He is available for

midweek championship matches.

The current Wisden refers to his

"dynamic bowling and mighty

hitting" in last year's Central

League. Such is the

Laurence's touring side that every-

thing taken at the gate, plus a

little more, will be profit for the

county.

Somerset's first innings, 270 for

five, was a good start. The

second innings, 175 for four, was

a good start. The

third innings, 175 for four, was

a good start. The

fourth innings, 175 for four, was

a good start. The

fifth innings, 175 for four, was

a good start. The

sixth innings, 175 for four, was

a good start. The

seventh innings, 175 for four, was

a good start. The

eighth innings, 175 for four, was

a good start. The

ninth innings, 175 for four, was

a good start. The

tenth innings, 175 for four, was

a good start. The

eleventh innings, 175 for four, was

a good start. The

twelfth innings, 175 for four, was

a good start. The

thirteenth innings, 175 for four, was

a good start. The

fourteenth innings, 175 for four, was

a good start. The

fifteenth innings, 175 for four, was

a good start. The

sixteenth innings, 175 for four, was

a good start. The

seventeenth innings, 175 for four, was

a good start. The

eighteenth innings, 175 for four, was

a good start. The

nineteenth innings, 175 for four, was

a good start. The

twentieth innings, 175 for four, was

a good start. The

twenty-first innings, 175 for four, was

a good start. The

twenty-second innings, 175 for four, was

a good start. The

twenty-third innings, 175 for four, was

a good start. The

twenty-fourth innings, 175 for four, was

a good start. The

twenty-fifth innings, 175 for four, was

a good start. The

twenty-sixth innings, 175 for four, was

a good start. The

twenty-seventh innings, 175 for four, was

a good start. The

twenty-eighth innings, 175 for four, was

a good start. The

twenty-ninth innings, 175 for four, was

a good start. The

## Racing

## Sporting

By Michael Phillips

Racing Correspondent

Goodwood today stages the last

recognized Derby trial in this

country. This is the Silver Jubilee

Stakes, a 2,000 Guineas race, run

over a mile and a half. It will

need a spectacular performance

from any one of the six runners

this afternoon to have much of

an impact on the Derby market

even in this troubled year.

The most likely winner would

appear to be Sporting Yankee, if

you pay heed to his victory in the

William Hill Futurity at Doncaster

last autumn and to his stout effort

in the Craven Stakes at Newmarket

halfway through April. Really to

fancy Sporting Yankee, though, you

must observe his progress in the

running in the 2,000 Guineas in

which he finished only 13th.

Content to be content, he is

reasoning that Patrick Eddery did

not subject Sporting Yankee to a

hard and fruitless race in the

Craven as soon as he realized

that the horse was not going to

finish in the first four.

They were always going too fast

for Sporting Yankee in the

Gallop, which was always a

possibility. But he ought to be

infinitely more at home racing

over a mile and a half than

Sporting Yankee's heart will

probably be good enough to

clinch today's prize, which in-

cludes two years' proceeds.

With Dick Hern's horses running

into form no one ought to be

surprised if Eddery makes his

presence felt. He certainly could

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## Yankee looks England's last hope

By Michael Phillips

Racing Correspondent

not have won his last race at

Newmarket much earlier. But this

was confined to maiden at start-

ing, and today's opposition looks

altogether much tougher. In-

deed, Eddery has the Mill Road

colt who cost his owner 202,000

guineas when he was sold as a

yearling. This is a record for a

yearling sold at public auction in

the United Kingdom.

Admirers of Hot Grove, who

won the Chester Vase so decis-

ively, will be looking to Eddery's

half-brother, Royal Blend, to give

them some encouragement. Royal

Blend was beaten five lengths by

Hot Grove at Chester, where he

looked a little uneasy racing

around a sharp corner.

Eddery's Royal Blend had beaten

Sea Raider by two and a half

lengths at Newbury. Theoretically

this is a record for the past five

years. Sea Raider was beaten

them now, with Sea Raider meet-

ing Royal Blend on 5 lb better

terms. Described to me by his

trainer, Eddery, as a "possibly

my next Brant", Sea Raider is

by Brant's sire, Sea Hawk, and

like Brant he is a grey. Sea

Raider's dam is as being more

the type to excel in the St Leger

than the Derby.

Price is also running nice

Balance this afternoon, but this

handsome American-bred colt has

disgraced himself on two occasions

already this season. First at the

market, where he finished a long

way behind Sporting Yankee, and

then again at Lingfield Park,

where he finished third behind

Black Mist and behind Tally

Horse in a handicap. Black Mist

finished third behind Tally

Horse in a handicap. Black Mist

finished third behind Tally

Horse in a handicap. Black Mist

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Horse in a handicap. Black Mist

finished third behind Tally

Horse in a handicap. Black Mist

finished third behind Tally





# Knight Frank & Rutley

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AN 18TH CENTURY MILL HOUSE ON THE RIVER KENNET



3 1/2 4 5 oil H 13 1/2 3 1/2

Additional features: Secondary House, Outbuildings. FOR SALE FREEHOLD WITH ABOUT 2 ACRES. (Further 4 acres let also available)

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AN ATTRACTIVE GEORGIAN PROPERTY WITH GLORIOUS VIEWS

4 1/2 4 5 1/2 2 oil H 3 1/2 1/2 1/2

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## OXFORDSHIRE

Oxford 7 miles, Didcot 10 miles.

AN ATTRACTIVE PERIOD MANOR HOUSE IN A DELIGHTFUL SETTING



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## HEREFORDSHIRE

Hereon-on-Wye and the M50 2 1/2 miles.

A FINE QUEEN ANNE HOUSE STANDING IN ATTRACTIVE GARDENS AND GROUNDS

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## SUSSEX

Northam 1 mile, Rye 8 miles.

AN HISTORIC TIMBERED HOUSE IN A SECLUDED POSITION

2 1/2 4 1/2 2 oil H 3 1/2 1/2 1/2

Additional features: Dressing room, Paddock. FOR SALE FREEHOLD WITH ABOUT 2 ACRES

Joint Sole Agents: BRAYTON WATSON & Co., Northam (Tel. 01974 2366) and KNOTT FRANK & RUTLEY, London Office (Tel. 01-629 8171)

Formerly the home of the late Lord Thomson of Fleet.

## BUCKINGHAMSHIRE

Gerards Cross 2 miles, London 21 miles.

A WELL MAINTAINED HOUSE IN A BEAUTIFUL SETTING



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Additional features: Indoor heated swimming pool, Staff flat, Greenhouses, Pasture. FOR SALE FREEHOLD WITH ABOUT 23 ACRES

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London 15 miles, Pottery Bar about 2 miles.

A LUXURIOUS MODERN HOUSE IN A SECLUDED RURAL SETTING

3 1/2 6 1/2 2 oil H 4 1/2 1/2 1/2

Additional features: Self-contained 3 room guest flat. Separate staff wing.

FOR SALE FREEHOLD WITH ABOUT 10 1/2 ACRES

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## KENT

Sittingbourne 2 miles, Maidstone 8 miles.

PRODUCTIVE ARABLE, FRUIT AND STOCK FARMS

Joint Sole Agents: HOBBS FRANK, Sittingbourne (Tel. 0223 2222) and KNOTT FRANK & RUTLEY, London Office (Tel. 01-629 8171)

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Large welcoming entrance hall leading into 2 double bedrooms. Spacious lounge with attractive fireplace and charming country views from picture windows. Beautifully designed modern kitchen/diner with breakfast bar and full kitchen. Fully equipped kitchen/diner with breakfast bar and full kitchen. Bathrooms with en-suite and w.c. with access to roof space. Single storey with parking space for 3/4 cars, leading to brick garage. Shingled from garden with ramp style fencing, leading to medium sized attractive laid out back garden, fully equipped with flower beds and ornamental lawns, and protective south facing trees. Marvellous offer at £11,500 as owners emigrating.

View by appointment—Phone Hillington 585

### Redcliffe St., S.W.10

Well modernised second and third floor maisonette ready for immediate occupation. Dining hall, reception, 2 bedrooms, kitchen, bathroom, C.H. Lease 99 yrs. Low outgoings. Highly recommended. £21,500.

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Fourth and fifth floor maisonette, redecorated and overlooking square gardens. Reception, 4 beds., kitchen, bathroom, shower room, balcony, C.H. Lease 99 yrs. Low outgoings £9,500.

### Wadham Road, S.W.15

Well modernised and of terrace house. Hall, double reception room, kitchen, dining room, 2 double bedrooms, garden, C.H. Freehold to include numerous features and fittings. £19,950.

### FARLEY & CO.

44-46 Old Brompton Road, N.W.7. Tel. 01-584 9491

### MENDOZA

Marble Arch, W.1. Flat in prime location, 2 bedrooms, 2 bathrooms, fully equipped kitchen, laundry, etc. Lease 99 yrs. Low outgoings. £15,500.

### MILLBANK COURT

24 beds, 1 reception, 1 kitchen, 1 bathroom, 1 shower room, 1 balcony, C.H. Lease 99 yrs. Low outgoings. £19,500.

### Winkworth & Co.

283 Brompton Road, S.W.3. Tel. 01-584 8885

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1965, 3/4 1st floor flat, double bedroom, single living room, kitchen, bathroom, C.H. Lease 99 yrs. Low outgoings. £15,500.

### Woodrocks

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### HAMPSTEAD VILLAGE

Up the road, 1st floor flat, double bedroom, single living room, kitchen, bathroom, C.H. Lease 99 yrs. Low outgoings. £15,500.

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St. Paul's School, situated in the heart of the village, 1st floor flat, double bedroom, single living room, kitchen, bathroom, C.H. Lease 99 yrs. Low outgoings. £15,500.

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3rd floor flat in p.b. block, 2 bedrooms, reception, C.H. Lease 99 yrs. Low outgoings. £15,500.

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In friendly village, 10 miles from London, 1st floor flat, 2 bedrooms, reception, C.H. Lease 99 yrs. Low outgoings. £15,500.

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1st floor maisonette flat, 2 bedrooms, reception, C.H. Lease 99 yrs. Low outgoings. £15,500.

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Top floor converted flat, newly decorated, 2 bedrooms, reception, C.H. Lease 99 yrs. Low outgoings. £15,500.

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City flat, excellent view, 2 bedrooms, reception, C.H. Lease 99 yrs. Low outgoings. £15,500.

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Timothy Raison on the need for elected representatives to curb the big power blocks

# MPs must make sure that the incomes policy buck stops in Parliament

The last year or two has taught us to add one more to the list of things that the great incomes policy chuse, or perhaps it is better to see it as the approach of a medieval tournament, with the unions sharpening their lances, the CBI furnishing its shield and the government desperately trying to find its armour. The peasants are left hoping that they will not be crushed underfoot—and Members of Parliament wondering whether they might be allowed to book a seat in a spectator stand.

It is Parliament's role in all this that I want to discuss. It seems to have become accepted that Parliament is not capable of playing a creative role in the formation of incomes policy, whether because it is too big, too awkward or too unrepresentative of the vital interests in management and labour and therefore incapable of delivering the goods. The result has been that incomes policy has been negotiated by government, under the Conservatives, on a tripartite basis with TUC and CBI, culminating with Mr Heath's October 1974 proposal for a televised NEDC negotiating forum; and then under Labour through the bilateral social contract with the unions, as well as Mr Healey's current notion of the "national wage reduction". Parliament has only rarely come into the act at the legislative stage—as for instance in 1975 when it passed the statute on which the government's present "non-inflationary" policy is based. That year we had not merely to convert a White Paper into law without amendments, but even do the same for an *amend* dictated by the TUC. The irony is that the minister in charge of all this was Mr Michael Foot—the biographer (and biographer) of Anurin Bevan, who once said: "I have protested, on more than one occasion about the Government going behind the back of Parliament, and reaching understandings



Anurin Bevan and Mr Michael Foot: the irony of Parliament's exclusion from the mechanics of incomes policy.

with outside bodies, and then presenting Parliament with a fait accompli." And the outside body to which he specifically referred was the TUC!

To be fair, people have argued for decades whether Parliament is capable of dealing with our great economic and industrial problems, and the idea of an industrial Parliament was often mooted—by Churchill among others—forty or fifty years ago. Indeed, other countries, including West Germany, Mussolini's Italy and post-war France have made experiments in that direction. More recently we have been alerted by the fact that the use of that ancient written language is now confined to the slogans on the walls and to some script on the locally produced matchboxes. Nor can a Tibetan read any Buddhist texts, for none are available, old or new. The only manifestation of the native culture tolerated by the regime is Tibetan "revolutionary opera", whose texts are literally translated from Chinese originals, but whose music is native.

In Tibet we had seen the gentle and always exceedingly polite Chinese undergo a transformation into classic district-commissioner types. That gesture became nearly more expansive, and their language with our local hosts quite clearly abrupt. Our hosts did not bother to hide their disgust as we were served Tibetan yak-butter tea, and they acted out for us little wordless plays of ridicule as we toured the altars of the one restored Tibetan temple in Lhasa. I asked a Chinese official resident in Tibet since 1960 how he found the life of the "new Tibetans". He did not know. I asked him to translate "move" and "go" and "foster". He knew.

And just as it is easy to forget, when surveying Soviet colonialism, that it is not confined to the Baltic states and the eastern European nations subjugated during and after the Second World War, but also includes those proud and ancient peoples inside the borders of the Soviet Union itself, so we should not forget that much the same is true of China.

Always in theory part of the Chinese empire, but rarely under effective imperial rule, the Chinese are in a constant state of being oppressed and oppressed. Thus in Tibet it was quite clear that the hierarchy was in Chinese and

not in Tibetan; in the surprisingly large bookshop we found in Lhasa, all the books were in Chinese, and the staff were all Chinese. In the Red Book, Mao's select quotations, no Tibetan records or posters were to be had, and the use of that ancient written language is now confined to the slogans on the walls and to some script on the locally produced matchboxes. Nor can a Tibetan read any Buddhist texts, for none are available, old or new. The only manifestation of the native culture tolerated by the regime is Tibetan "revolutionary opera", whose texts are literally translated from Chinese originals, but whose music is native.

At times Professor Luttwak's report enrages the reader not so much because of what it contains, but because of what it implies about those previous visitors to China who have seen what he has seen and written their eyes to it. The contrast has struck him, too: "Perhaps the most transparent of all the simulations of social equality one sees in China is the mock-equality of dress. Almost everywhere, the standard boiler suit, the uniform. But some are made of rough cotton and others of delicate gabardine, and still others of good-quality wool. Senior party men would wear their quality in carefully tailored

worsted wool, and their Mao suits had much more in common with the blue cotton outfits of ordinary people. And yet in the post-1972 reports of China it is the Chinese rule in the region is in every respect a colonial phenomenon... but there the locals are not submissive. Tibetan nationalists, as they are called, are proud, tough, and by no means devoid of a certain sense of humour. The intense friction between Tibetans and Chinese was clearly manifest even in the very restricted official briefings which we were given at the airport. Fresh from the airport we went to see the Sino-Tibetan Exhibition in the capital of the region, Urumchi, where I talked to an Uighur official of the reception committee in a mixture of Tibetan, Chinese and English, speaking the last two languages far better than I. This turned out to be my only genuine conversation with a Chinese official during the whole journey in China. The Uighur did not hesitate to speak, and volunteered illuminating comments on the inevitable official briefing which was being given as we toured the exhibition. Several of our escorts repeatedly instructed the Uighur to stop the conversation, which they could not monitor. They spoke to him as they would have spoken to a Tibetan, the tones of sharp command coming through even in Chinese.

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Bernard Levin

# One man at least who was not eyeless in China

I am well aware that in some western circles any suggestion that China has not achieved, unique among all civilisations, Paradise upon earth is regarded as evidence either of lunacy or of malignancy and in many cases both. As one who has long ago forfeited any claim, from the inhabitants of such circles, on sanity or good faith, by refusing to describe the system of government in Occupied Poland an exciting experiment in participatory socialist democracy, I am not much concerned, and I imagine that Professor Edward Luttwak, of Johns Hopkins University, whose recent article on China in the American magazine *Commentary* I was discussing and quoting yesterday (by permission of the editor), is likewise armoured in his wickedness against such criticism. But his article, for all that, demands answers to a large number of questions. For he travelled through China with eyes and ears open and mind alert, and came back with a report that differs sharply from most of the credulous swallowing of everything the Chinese guides tell their visitors. For instance, the thought of the Chinese as colonialist oppressors and exploiters will strike as bizarre or plain mad even many who are willing to admit that the Soviet Union is in all important respects an imperialist power, and a particularly bad and cruel one, too. But what are we—or rather they—to make of this report by Professor Luttwak?

Unlike the British colonial rulers, or even the French, the Chinese obviously can see no virtue in the survival of the local cultures, and still less in the survival of local religions. Chinese colonialism is therefore oppressive not merely politically, but also culturally.

Thus in Tibet it was quite clear that the hierarchy was in Chinese and not in Tibetan; in the surprisingly large bookshop we found in Lhasa, all the books were in Chinese, and the staff were all Chinese. In the Red Book, Mao's select quotations, no Tibetan records or posters were to be had, and the use of that ancient written language is now confined to the slogans on the walls and to some script on the locally produced matchboxes. Nor can a Tibetan read any Buddhist texts, for none are available, old or new. The only manifestation of the native culture tolerated by the regime is Tibetan "revolutionary opera", whose texts are literally translated from Chinese originals, but whose music is native.

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And there is another fascinating lady in the show, this time in resin and naked, fiddling with a non-existent suspender and thrusting her left foot into the room at a dangerous angle. I hope Bernard Suddell's creation survives intact until the exhibition ends (it opens to the public on Saturday). The spring-like sunshine that bathed the Royal Academy for the press preview yesterday took on tactile form in yet another fascinating lady on show. She is young and rides a bicycle which has spoked wheels; her legs are swinging forward for the sheer joy of it and she is smiling. How appropriate, I thought, that in the room just behind Sydney Hurpley's lovely cyclist is a Peter Freuchen equation of lines by Lorenzo II Magnifico: *Quant è bello, giovinezza, che si legge natura*.

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# The bulldozers threat to our Roman heritage at Milton Keynes

The trouble is that archaeological sites especially unexcavated ones are not spectacular

The alignment of a new road lies like the threatening shadow of a juggernaut across the largest and, as far as we can tell, the most important Roman site still unexcavated in Britain. Magiovinovium, a haunting name of mystery from our past, straddling Watling Street and flanked on one side by the River Ouse, has been identified only by the distance intervals in the Antonine Itinerary. Recent emergency excavations are indicating that the settlement was far larger than the scheduled area of the ancient monument, which was delineated on the assumed line of defences as interpreted from aerial photographs.

For example, Mr Nicholas Farrar in the report of his recent excavations to be published shortly describes the foundations of early timber-framed structures, or a considerable distance from Watling Street, which evidently form part of a much larger plan. There is a very real possibility that they are connected with a fort for all part of the Fourteenth Legion, which seems to have held the centre of the Platanus Fosse. The burning of these buildings has been part of a deliberate policy of demolition before the Roman advance to Watling Street. The possibility is that a junction was maintained at Magiovinovium, after the advance to Watling Street, and that its fort was burnt in the early part of the Fourth Century.

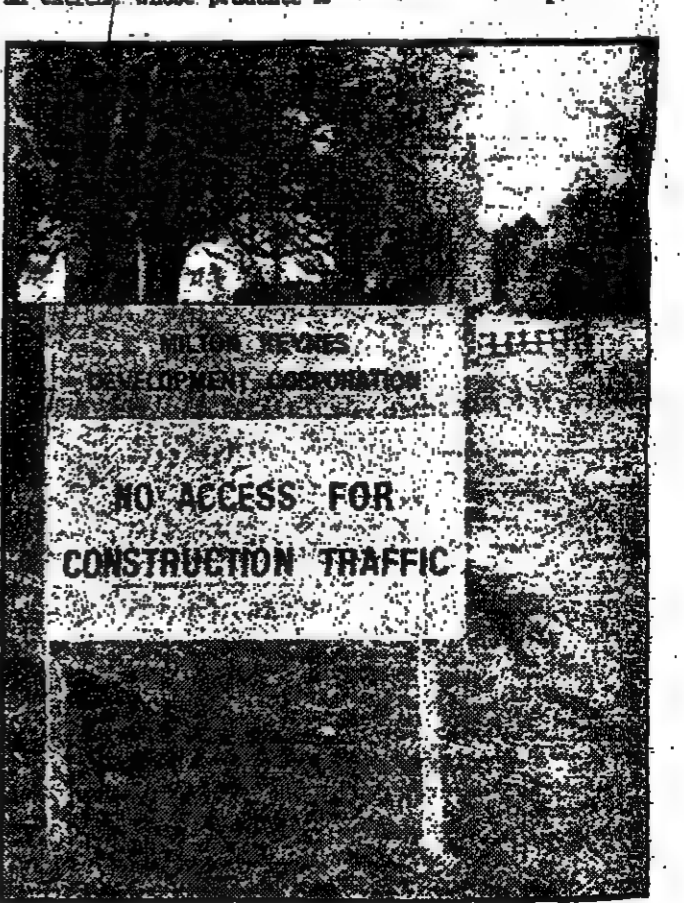
The five or six ditches in the area, which suggest a first-century attempt to drain the land as an aid to the establishment of a permanent civilian settlement. An Ironstone wall has been found, suggesting a building in later and more prosperous times. In short, we probably have a previously unknown Claudian fort at Magiovinovium, which would make it a monument quite as significant to our national heritage as Hadrian's Wall. Magiovinovium could become a living archaeological site beside the new town of Milton Keynes, which is desperately in search of a historical and cultural identity, and whose outside-the-Roman military site lies.

The trouble is that archaeological sites, especially unexcavated ones, are not spectacular items in our national heritage. The Department of the Environment and the Milton Keynes Development Corporation propose to drive a new trunk road within 50 yards of the scheduled ancient monument, and so through land that clearly holds remains of one of the very few unexcavated Roman towns in the country. The road is known to the planners by the unlovely designation of A5 (D). It is in fact a diversion to bring Watling Street closer to the centre of Milton Keynes: an exercise whose prudence is

questioned by some thoughtful people, since there are already public footpaths to the north and south of the site.

The road engineers of the Department of the Environment were instructed in their brief not to disturb the site of Magiovinovium. But at public inquiry into the alignment of the A5 (D) in 1975 and 1976, as argued persuasively by eminent archaeologists that the Roman site extends far beyond the scheduled area, and will be truncated by the road, the roadmen pressed on. They were hit up first of all for six months by Mrs Freda Uxlin, the owner of the land under which Magiovinovium lies, who wanted an eventually safe road cut under the new road for her sheep. Then last summer the A5 (D) was postponed for one or two years because of the cut in government expenditure. However, it is likely that the bulldozers will come, cutting through Magiovinovium late in the year or next year. The Milton Keynes Development Corporation has not seen fit to adopt our alignment in view of its professed and genuine concern for archaeology and the environment. We clearly need a truly independent inquiry into the feasibility of rerouting the A5 (D) along the V8. Otherwise bulldozers, lorries and the road lobby will shortly keep for ever the site where Aulus Plautius's legion gloried and drank deep and left their marks on the conquest land.

Philip Howarth



NO ACCESS FOR CONSTRUCTION TRAFFIC

# Another angle on support for the arts in Britain

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# THE TIMES

## BUSINESS NEWS

5,000 Chloride workers strike over productivity dispute, page 22

Lonrho still an enigma in the City, page 23

### Bonn has doubts about reaching its 5pc economic growth target

From Peter Norman, Bonn, May 17

Within less than 10 days of the London economic summit, at which it was thought that Chancellor Helmut Schmidt had committed West Germany to achieving a real economic growth rate of 5 per cent this year, Dr Hans Friedrichs, his economic minister, has publicly expressed doubt on his country's ability to meet its target.

Dr Friedrichs told a meeting of foreign journalists in Bonn that he expected the economic growth rate this year would have only a "four before the decimal point".

It could be 4.3 per cent or 4.7 per cent, he said. The 5 per cent target enshrined in the Government's annual economic report no longer seemed probable in the first few months of this year.

There has been a lingering uncertainty about Germany's economic outlook for some months, not least because of the vital industrial order and production figures have been in a state of total confusion since the statistical sample on which they are based was reformed at the beginning of the year.

But uncertainty has tended to turn to gloom, since the publication of the April unemployment figures, which showed that Germany still had a jobless total of more than a million.

Today Dr Armin Grünewald, the deputy government spokesman, said the German Government's economic growth target

was still 5 per cent. But it would not be a disaster if growth turned out to be 4.7 per cent or 4.8 per cent, he added.

It was unrealistic to expect growth targets to be held to the nearest decimal point. "We aimed for 5 per cent last year and got 5.6 per cent and nobody complained about that", Dr Grünewald said.

The cabinet is to discuss the high level of unemployment at its meeting on May 25.

It is expected to decide on a limited job creation programme and to take steps to aid the building industry, which is still in a state of severe recession.

But, according to government sources, there is no chance of further funds being made available besides the DM16,000m (about £4,000m) infrastructure development programme decided earlier this year. This programme is due to be pushed through over the remainder of this decade by the Federal and State Governments and the local authorities.

In terms of cash, the most that seems likely at the moment is a reallocation of money used by the Federal Labour Office.

Last November about DM450m was set aside by the Federal Government to help finance those prepared to move houses to take up jobs.

The Labour Office has paid out only a quarter of this amount so far, but it claims that applications for the scheme should absorb at least another 50 per cent of the funds available.

### Surveillance licences for imports of steel

By Edward Townsend

Surveillance licences covering a wide range of iron and steel products imported from non-EEC countries will be required from next Wednesday, the Department of Trade announced yesterday.

The licensing system, introduced under the so-called Davidson Plan, which sets minimum price levels for the European steel industry, goes some way to meeting union and industry demands in Britain for a more detailed form of import monitoring in a bid to establish whether dumping is taking place.

The surveillance licences will be valid for three months and said the department, issued freely against evidence, in the form of correspondence or orders, of the intent to import.

Importers will be required to provide some detailed information about quantity, value and domestic market prices in the country of origin.

The price details will be of particular value under present rules in determining whether imported iron and steel is being dumped.

Minimum prices laid down on the basis of the Davidson Plan, drawn up by Viscount Edegar Davidson, the European Commissioner for Industry, produced some opposition last week from the British Steel Corporation, which described them as unrealistic.

It was feared that the introduction of voluntary minimum prices could tend to draw down British prices.

There was concern that third countries outside the EEC could regard the new minimum figures as allowing them to export to Europe at low prices.

The BSC considers that the licensing system will only slow down rather than stop the process.

### Slow rise in industrial production

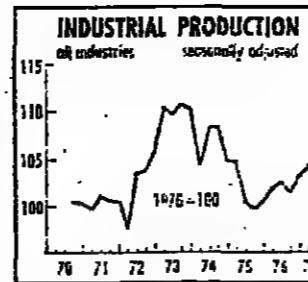
By David Blake, Economics Correspondent

Britain's industrial production continued to grow slowly during March, but there were tentative signs that engineering and the investment goods industries may be going through a slightly better time now than they were at the turn of the year.

The all-industries index rose to 104.3 from the February level of 104.1. During the first quarter of 1977, production increased over the previous quarter by 1 per cent.

Comparison between quarters is generally thought to be the best indicator of how industry is performing because the monthly index has a notorious tendency to jump around.

The investment goods industries have carried almost all the burden of the increase in production, limited in scale though it has been. Investment goods production was 2 per cent higher in the months January



to March than it was during October to December; the increase in consumer goods production was 0.3 per cent, while that in the intermediate goods industries was 0.5 per cent.

The figures fit in with the Government's belief that there will be a big increase in investment this year while consumer demand will stay fairly stagnant. The relative stagnation of consumer demand has been shown in retail sales figures

over the past few months. Investment surveys do suggest that there will be some improvement as the year goes by.

But the figures also provide a reminder of how low a base the investment industries start from. Whereas in March the index for intermediate goods industries stood at 105 (1970 is taken as 100) and consumer goods were at 113, investment goods industries' output was only 102, even after the recent rise.

Within industrial groups the steel performer has, naturally enough, been the mining and quarrying group which included North Sea oil. Output of this sector was 8 per cent higher in the first quarter than it was in the final quarter of 1976.

The other industry which has been improving steadily in the first months of the year is engineering, which accounts for more than 30 per cent of total

output and was 1.3 per cent up in the first quarter.

Although the latest results show industrial output 2.5 per cent higher than a year ago (manufacturing is 3.5 per cent up), the picture for the decade as a whole remains gloomy.

Output is only 4.3 per cent higher than it was in 1970. The world recession has not helped, but other industrial countries have managed to do considerably better.

Taking 1970 as a base of 100, at the end of last year production (excluding construction) in Belgium was up 22 per cent. In France it was up 26 per cent and in Germany 13.5 per cent.

America had an increase of 22 per cent, Japan one of 28 per cent, and even Italy, which had been hit by the sick men of Europe, had raised production 27.5 per cent. In the United Kingdom the equivalent increase was 5.7 per cent.

Table, page 20

### British exports share \$300m deals using foreign currency financing

By Peter Hill, Industrial Correspondent

British export deals worth a total of \$300m are being financed by foreign currency financing, announced yesterday.

Both deals are the first major overseas contracts of real size to involve foreign currency financing on medium and long term credit in line with a policy outlined by Mr Healey, the Chancellor, at the end of last year.

Davy Powergas, a subsidiary of Davy International, with the West German company, Klockner Industrial Plant, will provide the Soviet Union with two gas turbines (using ICI technology) with a

total contract value of \$250m. The project will involve a gathering of new gas gathering and treatment plant being built in Dubai by McDermott Middle East Trading of Houston, Texas.

The aim of the new foreign currency financing measures is to encourage exporters to use a form of financing which benefits the balance of payments, and which, because it does not require refinancing, reduces the burden on public expenditure.

Also the use of foreign currency may allow exporters to quote more competitive prices if the currency concerned is at a premium in the forward market.

Morgan Grenfell, merchant bankers, were involved in arranging finance for both deals.

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### DoT inquiry into affairs of Ozalid

By Our Financial Staff

Inspectors have been appointed by Mr Dell, Secretary of State for Trade, to investigate and report on the affairs of Ozalid, the office copying equipment supplier company, which has been the subject of an investigation by the Monopolies Commission and was recently taken over by the Dutch office banking firm on the front line of Britain.

Dr J. V. H. Penning, who was appointed deputy chairman and managing director of Ozalid in April after the takeover, said yesterday that he was completely satisfied that the investigation had nothing to do with the company's financial affairs.

The board of Ozalid understood that the investigation under section 165(b) of the Companies Act 1948 related to "specific events" occurring before the Dutch company moved to London.

However, Dr Penning said that he did not know what these "specific events" were. Section 165(b) gives the Secretary of State for Trade powers to order an investigation where there is reason to believe that the company's affairs are being conducted in a manner which is prejudicial to the interests of shareholders or the public.

The directors of Ozalid, formerly a high-flyer whose status was barely dimmed by the disclosure in 1975 that certain directors' pay had been understated to the tune of £93,000 in the years 1970-73, shocked the market in February by accepting a bid from Océ van der Grinten at below the price they had been offering for the company.

They argued that the company's trading difficulties precluded an alternative.

The report touches on the highly sensitive issue of non-union staff in the development of the consultative process but does not say whether a minority of non-union staff had been reached.

But on the corporate council, which would have 12 to 14 seats, management representatives should include the highest level of the company's executive director level. The working party spells out in detail some of the options for electing staff representatives, but again no final decision is reached.

The report falls far short of a full-blooded involvement by workers with a succinct statement that "consultation itself must not impede management's right to make decisions in order to react to events of a commercial significance".

It also emphasises the need for secrecy when information is disclosed, particularly where the information relates to individual staff members or customers.

The longer accepted that authority and the right to demand unquestioning obedience automatically go with position or social status. Employees used a sense of achievement and involvement. It says participation has to a degree been forced on employers by legislation requiring the disclosure of certain information to employees.

A minority report of the working party proposes a number of participation procedures to evolve from lower levels upwards. It urges the extension of the present office participation system to include the difficulty of organizing a large number of lower level bodies.

Christopher Thomas

Commodities, page 26

### Opec prices policy 'still unsettled'

By Roger Viehweg

Mr Ali M. Jaidah, Secretary General of the Organisation of Petroleum Exporting Countries (Opec) said last night that it was "premature" to speculate on when the two-tiered price system this has operated since the beginning of this year would revert to single pricing.

He was commenting on reports from the Middle East that most of the 11 countries that voted to implement a price rise from January 1, with the option of a further 5 per cent rise from July 1, had decided to forgo the mid year price increase.

There has been speculation that the 11 Opec members who renounced the price increase, Saudi Arabia and the

United Arab Emirates, which only increased prices by 5 per cent on January 1, would be prepared to implement a further 5 per cent increase from July 1, bringing their prices into line with other Opec members.

Mr Jaidah said there had been a concerted effort among member countries to revert to a single price as was the practice in the past, but there had been no final settlement yet.

Ann-Ryle writes from Dubai: Sheikh Ahmed Zaid Yamani, Saudi oil minister, said yesterday after a 24-hour visit to the United Arab Emirates that Saudi Arabia would not alter its position on oil prices despite current attempts to end the dual price system within Opec.

After holding discussions with Mr Mazen Bin-Said al-Otaibi, UAE oil minister, Sheikh Yamani held a press conference at which he said Saudi Arabia was anxious to reach a settlement of the price issue with its fellow Opec members, but would continue to levy the 5 per cent increase announced by Saudi Arabia and the UAE at Opec's last summit in Doha, Qatar.

Asked his views of present attempts to reconcile the 5 per cent increase with the two-tier, 15 per cent rise decided upon at the other 11 Opec members, Sheikh Yamani said these efforts were still at an early stage and "had not yet reached a satisfactory conclusion".

The Venezuelan oil minister recently completed a tour of the Opec countries aimed at finding a compromise solution.

### Two directors leave board at Beaverbrook

By Christopher Wilkins

Beaverbrook Newspapers announced the resignation of two of its directors yesterday as speculation about the future of the newspaper group continued. The directors involved are Mr A. W. Dyer and Mr B. T. C. Nicholson.

Their resignations follow that of another boardroom member, Mr Peter Hetherington three weeks ago, and are thought to arise partly from the boardroom rift which led to the short-lived dismissal of Mr Jockeily Stevens, the chief executive last month.

Beaverbrook "A" shares rose by around 5p at one stage yesterday on rumours that Sir James Goldsmith's Générale Occidentale group was ready to make a full bid for the company. However, after active trading the shares fell back to close unchanged at 56p.

Plan to merge Beaverbrook's London evening paper, the Evening Standard with its rival Evening News was suspended last month after Sir James intervened with an offer to resume the Standard independently.

The first—probably on May 26—will authorize the Leyland Cars subsidiary to go ahead with its investment in new models, including the controversial £200m Mini project.

But an announcement on reorganization and possible changes in senior management will not be made until Parliament resumes after the Whit Sunday recess.

A decision on this is not as pressing as the need to lift the freeze on capital spending which is threatening serious delays to the 1979 launch date for the new Mini at the new medium saloon range due out two years later.

Government delay in tackling structural and managerial problems will inevitably lead to reports that the management of Leyland Cars is in a state of confusion, according to Lord Ryder, chairman of the National Enterprise Board, can find executives who have the standing and the will to take on such a daunting task.

The most widely reported candidate, Mr Terry Becker, 53, chairman and managing director of Ford Britain, is apparently a non-starter.

Despite the improvements of the past two months, Leyland Cars has shown that it cannot generate cash flow to support the planned investment ratio of £1.4 of Leyland money for every £1 from the Government.

In acknowledging this failure the Government is expected to tell Leyland Cars to concentrate available funds on new cars and reduce investment aimed at providing more of its own components.

UK Shipbuilders chief is named

Mr Michael Casey, a former top civil servant, has been confirmed as chief executive of British Shipbuilders, the new state corporation which is due to take over the bulk of Britain's shipbuilding industry on July 1.

Mr Varley, the Secretary of State for Industry confirmed the appointment of Mr Casey, formerly head of the Department of Industry's shipbuilding policy division, for one year at a salary of £19,300.

### City dissatisfaction grows over terms for Cavenham

By Christopher Wilkins

Amid growing City dissatisfaction with the terms of the partial bid by Sir James Goldsmith's Générale Occidentale for Cavenham, it emerged last night that a group of leading institutional investors is to meet during the next few days to meet whether to demand a better offer.

The meeting will be attended by a number of pension funds, who together hold almost 10 per cent of Cavenham's shares. It is clear that the funds had been expecting a full bid for the minority in Cavenham, and yesterday they were expressing widespread discontent that GO's offer is only to be for half of the 49 per cent of Cavenham which it does not own.

If the funds decide they feel strongly enough about this issue to take it further, it seems likely that any representations will be made collectively on their behalf through the medium of the investment protection committee of the National Association of Pension Funds.

Among the pension funds believed to hold Cavenham shares are those of British Airways, British Rail, British Steel and Shell.

A key factor in determining the attitude of the pension funds could be the position of the Prudential Assurance, which is the largest institutional shareholder in Cavenham with a 10 per cent stake, although there is no question of the Pru participating in the pension funds' own discussions.

It was widely believed that the Pru had reached agreement with Sir James on terms for a bid, and that a decision by the Pru to accept would influence other big shareholders. But while the Pru had certainly talked to Sir James and had spelt out the kind of offer it would consider acceptable, it is now clear that those earlier talks were on the basis of a full, not a partial bid.

The Pru declined to comment yesterday on whether or not it would accept the offer, but it appears to be less than enchanted with the partial offer.

Financial Editor, page 23

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Financial Editor, page 23

### Reyrolle Parsons attacks 'exaggerated' GEC claims

By Malcolm Brown

Argument over the future of the turbo-generator industry took a new turn yesterday when the Board of Reyrolle Parsons applied to GEC criticisms of Reyrolle's subsidiary, C. A. Parsons.

Mr Bob Davidson, managing director of GEC—Turbine Generators, had mentioned serious Parsons problems with a letter four power stations, and said that of the 26 turbine generators ordered in the United Kingdom, 11 had been won by GEC in competition. He also gave a Drax B to Parsons before a nationalization of the industry would be disastrous.

GEC and Parsons are fighting over the restructuring of the industry, with GEC adamant that it should have control and Parsons opposing such a solution.

Reyrolle Parsons said yesterday that it "deplored" certain derogatory statements which had been made. The references to past generator problems had been exaggerated.

Again in interpreting the number of machines ordered in the United Kingdom it has always been a characteristic of the power market that orders go in phases and so different statistics can be arrived at by considering various periods of time.

### Mr Varley to approve new Mini next week

By Clifford Webb

Mr Varley, Secretary of State for Industry, is expected to announce the Government's decision on the British Leyland review study in two stages.

The first—probably on May 26—will authorize the Leyland Cars subsidiary to go ahead with its investment in new models, including the controversial £200m Mini project.

But an announcement on reorganization and possible changes in senior management will not be made until Parliament resumes after the Whit Sunday recess.

A decision on this is not as pressing as the need to lift the freeze on capital spending which is threatening serious delays to the 1979 launch date for the new Mini at the new medium saloon range due out two years later.

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### Lonrho pays £24.8m for AVP Industries

By Desmond Quigley

Lonrho, returning to the takeover fray yet again, has made an agreed £24.8m bid for AVP Industries, owners of Brighton's decaying West Pier, several hotels including the Metropole and some industrial interests.

The bid is worth 130p cash a share—far higher than the shares have ever been, adjusted for capital change. AVP's quote was 100p, but the bid was a one-day suspension and the shares rose 36p to 129p, having gained 10p last week. At the beginning of the year the shares were listed at 51p.

At one stage the shares touched 132p as a few hopes were raised of a counter bid, before it became apparent that

Mr Harold Foster, the AVP chairman, was firmly behind the bid.

Mr Foster said the agreed price was the result of a direct compromise between his own original figure of 150p a share and Lonrho's starting position of 110p. He said the net asset value backing was now somewhat higher than the 125p stated in the annual report for the year to the end of March 1976.

Directors of AVP have undertaken to accept the offer in respect of their 3.4 per cent holding, and family and trust holdings, accounting for a further 16.1 per cent of the equity will almost certainly accept.

AVP is expected to have made a profit of about £5.5m for the year to the end of last March.

Mr Foster said: "Some months ago the Stock Exchange and the City considered the value of AVP shares was 58p. If I see an organization coming along and putting 130p on the table, who am I to say no? I have to consider what is in the shareholders' interests."

He said he would remain chairman of the company and joint managing director with his son, Michael, if the bid was successful.

Meanwhile, Lonrho announced that 95 per cent of its recent rights issue had been taken up and that, with excess applications, the issue had been substantially more than 100 per cent oversubscribed.

Lonrho enigma, page 23

### HAROLD PERRY MOTORS LIMITED

Ford Main Dealers

1976 RESULTS

	1976	1975
GROUP SALES	£1,640,907	£36,218,220
PROFIT BEFORE TAX	1,577,670	1,308,194
DIVIDENDS net	218,506	198,906
ADDED TO RESERVES	591,300	394,637
EARNINGS PER SHARE	16.3p	13.2p

Extracts from the review by the Chairman, Mr J. F. Macgregor.

- \* Continued profit growth in 1976 despite high cost of financing biggest ever expansion project.
- \* Dividends increased by permitted maximum.
- \* 1977 first quarter's profit of £606,000 shows 45% increase over previous year.
- \* Management views immediate trading opportunities with confidence.

GO PERRY'S

Copies of the Chairman's Review and the 1976 Report and Accounts can be obtained from the Secretary, 279 Ballards Lane, London N12 8NS

### How the markets moved

Rises	Falls
Avio Am Ind 1up to 485p	De Beers Dfd 11p to 258p
AVP Ind 36p to 129p	Furness Withy 12p to 281p
Bibby 7p to 141p	Gen Accident 9p to 191p
Blackwell Hedge 7p to 124p	Laurence Scott 7p to 128p
Broken Hill 55p to 67p	
Cash Gold Fields 55p to 165p	
Consolidated 5p to 28p	
Empire Stores 8p to 143p	
Invergordon 8p to 62p	</



# Whitbread announce the following trading performance for the 12 months to February 1977.

	1975/76	1976/77
Profit before tax	£30.7m.	£42.6m.
Dividend	£7.6m.	£8.3m. (proposed)
Tax	£16.5m.	£22.3m.
Profit ploughed back	£7.9m.	£10.9m.

Didn't we do well? Or did we? It seems to depend on where you stand.

Standing at the bar, you might be tempted to observe that if we have made that much money we should not increase the price of a pint so often.

Standing for Parliament, you might (depending on your political leaning) make capital out of the short term profit growth of 38.9%, which is well ahead of last year's rate of inflation.

Our employees might ask how long must they stand for wage restraint while we make massive profits.

On the other hand, those same employees stand to gain from our investment plans, as do the retailers who make a living by trading in our products.

Our shareholders can look forward to an increased dividend. And the Chancellor can stand by to receive a substantial windfall in duty and VAT.

Clearly we cannot satisfy all these points of view. What is the correct balance, the fair profit for which we are prepared to stand up and be counted?

Let us take you through some facts.

## First, the good news.

Profit before tax increased by £11.9m., a gain of 38.9%.

Investment plans can therefore continue. We are half way through a 5 year programme with £116m. planned to be spent over the next 2 years. There is a brewery going up at Magor in South Wales, new lager production facilities, new canning line and an extensive programme of building and renovation in our licensed estate.

Employment results from our investment plans, not just for our own people but also for workers in supplier companies, particularly in the construction industry. Our own profit performance allowed us to continue producing wage packets for nearly 40,000 people - plus their families - for another year.

The Drinker has had to put up with price increases, but still gets one of the cheapest pints in Europe. Our volume has certainly held up, which encourages us to believe that the value

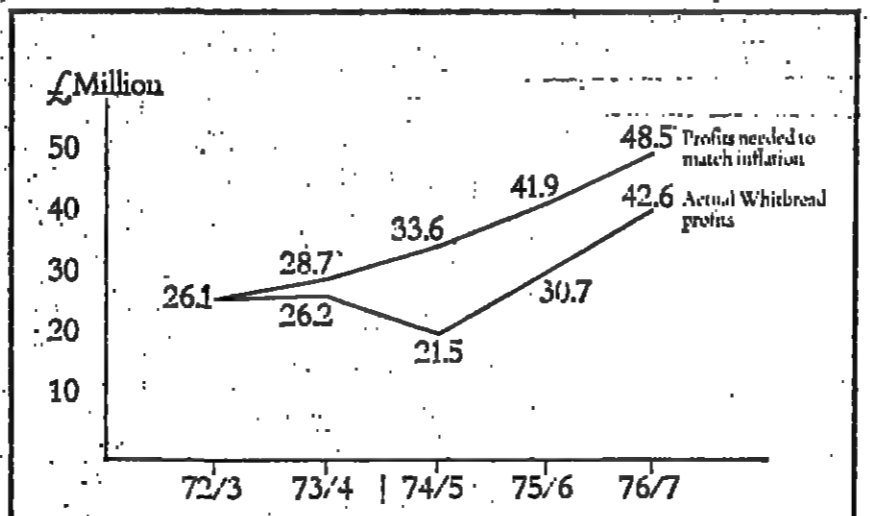
of British beer in the British pub is widely appreciated.

The public at large will benefit from the fruits of our labours in the shape of the taxes and duty that we pay. Last year we generated around £200 million which would have paid for any of the following:

- Half of the cost of school meals, milk and welfare foods
- or all public expenditure on libraries
- or most of the cost of the fire service.

## Now, the not-so-good news.

Inflation has taken its toll of our long term prosperity - our performance over the past 5 years has been consistently behind the inflation-adjusted targets.



Dividends are even further behind inflation - the shareholder (who, these days, is often a retired hard-working man or a pension fund manager) has suffered most of all.

	71/2	72/3	73/4	74/5	75/6	76/7
ORDINARY DIVIDEND TO SHAREHOLDERS	100	105.0	110.5	117.4	128.0	140.8
RETAIL PRICE INDEX	100	106.1	114.7	139.8	171.8	199.7
AVERAGE EARNINGS PER EMPLOYEE (Refers to all full-time wholesale and retail employees)	100	114.9	128.3	150.6	179.2	191.9

Prospects are not rosy - the second half results are much inferior to the first:

	1976/77 vs 1975/76
FIRST HALF PROFIT	+£9.3m. (+49.8%)
SECOND HALF PROFIT	+£3.1m. (+23.7%)

These figures may be exaggerated by the phenomenal summer of 1976, but the devastating impact of accumulating cost increases in the second half is all too apparent.

For example: malt went up by 35%, hops by 22%, cans and cartons by 19%, and fuel and power by 29%.

Costs must be recovered and the only sure way is through increased prices. Failure to put up our prices last year would have resulted in a £14.5m. profit fall - down to £28.1m., which is not much better than 4 years ago.

We might have had less explaining to do, but we would also have done less investing - spent less on new plant and equipment, and less on our estate - with a consequent chain reaction on earnings, jobs and future profits.

Human resource is probably our most important single asset. Caring for it and nurturing it is an increasing problem. At its most obvious it is a problem of rewards and security which depend on Whitbread remaining competitive and profitable. But it goes deeper than that. Morale can be lowered by many things: seeing the standard of living of one's family decline, having to operate an obsolete machine for cost-saving reasons, listening to our critics, feeling that the whole commercial structure of society may be tottering.

We want to play our part in removing these irritants - we know that self-interest, even enlightened self-interest, is not enough in the changing modern world.

## So where do we stand on our profits?

For a start, let us declare an interest: we worked damned hard to earn them! You cannot expect us to achieve total detachment, nor to expound original wisdom on how to perform the economic miracle.

As a large national company we are a significant social unit and, as such, willing to account for our performance to the community as a whole - even though that means trying to satisfy conflicting opinions.

We think our performance, seen in the context of the past 5 years and our view of the next 5 years, has achieved a reasonable balance. We think our plans to plough back most of our profits are responsible and, within our limitations, likely to bring the greatest happiness to the greatest number.



WHITBREAD & CO. LTD.

## 5,000 Chloride battery workers in strikes and sit-ins at two plants

By R. W. Shakespeare

A strike and sit-in by 5,000 workers at two Chloride International battery manufacturing factories in Manchester and Dagenham has halted all production.

Workers are occupying the two plants at Clifton Junction, Manchester, where 3,500 are on strike and at Dagenham, Essex, where another 1,500 are out. Senior management staff have been locked out.

The dispute centres on union rejection of an offer which will give the 5,000 workers the chance to earn a £4 a week bonus above last year's average earnings, in addition to a 5 per cent wage increase under phase two of the Government's incomes policy.

In a statement last night the company said that the key issue was an urgent need to bring levels of production in the United Kingdom plants up to those of Chloride companies overseas and international competitors.

The statement added: "Chloride has been paying for

productivity which has not been delivered and the company is not prepared to go on doing this."

Average earnings for workers at the Manchester and Dagenham plants are £76 for a 40-hour week, a company spokesman said.

The main union involved is the Transport and General Workers Union but four others also have members in the two plants.

A union spokesman said although productivity was one of the main issues, there were other grievances over pensions, the import of foreign batteries and job security.

In its statement the company accused the unions of breaking an agreement of confidentiality concerning discussions between management and shop floor representatives on a possible link-up between Chloride and another manufacturer over the manufacture of battery separators.

The company spokesman said the unions had been given advance information and it was

a matter of great concern to the company that the unions had breached this confidentiality and included the question of the possible link-up in their call for industrial action.

Senior management men locked out of the Manchester factory set up a temporary headquarters in a nearby motel. Mr Peter Berry, Chloride's manufacturing director, said that the temporary accommodation was designed to keep the company "ticking over".

The company was concerned that the dispute would seriously affect its export drive and marketing operations.

He added: "We are fully prepared to meet union representatives when and where they wish."

Union conveners at the Manchester plant met for several hours yesterday. They drew up a rota list to maintain a 24-hour a day sit-in. A similar sit-in was being organized at the Dagenham factory.

The motor industry is unlikely to feel the effects of the dispute for some time.

## Snags delay start of computer checkouts for supermarket use

By Patricia Tisdall

Technical snags have delayed the computer code number bank regarded as the key development behind the introduction of automatic checkouts in supermarkets.

The code bank, which would allocate product numbers to all the big grocery manufacturers, was due to have started last month. But according to a statement yesterday from the organization behind the project, the United Kingdom Article Number Association, the start has been delayed until January.

This is a big disappointment to the computer manufacturers, who were hoping to start selling systems specially developed for use with supermarket checkouts this summer. Manufacturers include IBM, which has been demonstrating a supermarket computer system at the International Association of Chain Stores conference in London this week.

Another is MSI Data Corporation of California who launched a portable electronic reordering system yesterday, which they said could reduce inventory levels in Britain's multiple stores and shops by over £1,000m if generally adopted.

Most of the big supermarket chains, however, are holding back from the full scale use of

computers until the food manufacturers agree on the number codes to use on their product labels.

The number system being devised by the Article Number Association for British manufacturers will be compatible with that used in 12 European countries, and the United States, so that goods imported or exported do not have to be specially relabelled.

As well as facilitating stock control and product ordering, a number system common to grocery manufacturers and retailers would speed the use of computer-linked tills at checkouts. Such equipment would mean that retailers could abolish the expensive and time-consuming price labelling of individual items.

It would also mean that a manufacturer's bar code on the package could be electronically adjusted daily, if necessary, to keep up with price changes.

Association believes that there is no commercial advantage for supermarkets until about 70 per cent of grocery products carry the symbol marks.

Mr Stanley Maughan, chairman of the association and administration director of Allied Suppliers said yesterday that "several technical issues" needed to be resolved by the European equivalent body

## LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

### Drax B: order first and then tackle the restructuring

From Mr. Mike Thomas, MP for Newcastle upon Tyne, East (Labour and Co-operative)

Sir, Once again the Government is in danger of being drowned in its own "think tank". In autumn 1976, the Central Policy Review Staff reported on the power plant manufacturing industry. Its major recommendation was that the Government should bring forward the order for the Drax B power station and give a commitment to a steady home-ordering programme for power stations.

"Conditional on acceptance by both management and labour of at least the heads of agreement for the Drax B power station and the implementation of the rationalization programme". This conclusion was fundamentally misconceived as far as the two companies, C. A. Parsons Ltd and GEC—the turbo-generator industry are concerned, for four reasons:

1—Creation of a single company is effectively related to the development of a single technology. This would take time to develop—perhaps 10 to 20 years—and there is no agreement as to whether Parsons's technology, which is British based and produces the most efficient turbo-generators in service with the CEBG and the highest rated nuclear turbo-generators in the world, or the largely American based, technology used by GEC should be the base.

2—There is an immediate problem of redundancy in the C. A. Parsons plant and in Babcock and Wilcox, the boiler makers, who depend on the Drax order to sustain employment. The CERS is no doubt right that if world

demand for generation equipment stays at its present levels some slimming down is necessary, but slimming down over four or five years through natural wastage and early retirement is very different from the 1,900 compulsory redundancies which have been announced as Parsons's.

3—The delay in ordering the Drax power station and the uncertainty over restructuring have meant that neither British turbo-generator company has received an export order for almost six months. This relates, too, to the technology problem, for overseas customers want to know who is going to build the turbo-generators they order and are not enthusiastic about different parts being built at different plants in a restructured company which they know nothing of. (This problem also relates to Drax B which the CEBG are reluctant to have split up between the two technologies of the existing companies.)

4—The "no orders before restructuring" stratagem has never been an effective sanction to encourage mergers as the GEC order book is two years long and it has enabled them to say that they are not interested in any restructuring which they do not control, in the knowledge that Parsons's position, in the absence of the Drax order, must steadily weaken.

This last point, I believe, is what led the Government to contemplate, just before Easter, accepting GEC's terms. When those terms became publicly known, hostile reaction from the trade unions in Parsons, from Northern, Scottish and

miners' Members in the Parliamentary Labour Party and from the trade union and labour movement at large, gave the Government cause to think again.

They are now, I understand, trying to get the various parties together under the auspices of the National Enterprise Board. I have no quarrel with this. I believe that in the long term a restructuring of the industry that fairly protected the interests of its constituents in Newcastle would be in the public interest. But the account on the words "long term" is a restructuring is bound to take time. Meanwhile, 1,900 families on Tyneside face the prospect of living on the dole, there is the likelihood that Babcock & Wilcox will need to look for more redundancies, and there will be no export orders for either company because of the uncertainty. The Government really should now set aside a "think tank" report before any worst prognostications become a self-fulfilling prophecy and we get no home orders, no exports, massive redundancies and no restructuring either. The answer I firmly believe is to place the Drax B turbo-generator work with C. A. Parsons and the boiler work with Babcock & Wilcox now and to then proceed in a calmer atmosphere on the lengthy task of getting a restructuring which will secure the future of the industry and will be acceptable to those who work in it.

Yours faithfully, MIKE THOMAS, House of Commons, London, May 11.

## N Sea oil allows cuts in stocks

By Roger Vrielvoet

Energy Correspondent

Growing production from the North Sea has reduced the amount of oil that British refining companies will be required to hold in stock. Mr Wedgwood Benn, the Secretary of State for Energy, said yesterday that the companies' stock-holding requirements would be reduced from the equivalent of 85 days' imports to 75 days.

Under European Economic Community regulations, Britain is entitled to a 15 per cent reduction in stocks because of North Sea output. But under the terms of the International Energy Agency treaty, Britain can discount the whole of its North Sea production against storage.

Talks have started between the Department of Energy and the EEC Commission with the object of producing a compromise on EEC and IEA stock-holding requirements for substantial oil producers.

## European airbus could have Rolls engines

By Arthur Reed

Air Correspondent

Rolls-Royce RB 211 engines could be fitted to the European A300 airbus if talks between the British company and Airbus Industrie which are due to begin shortly are successful.

At present, the A300 is powered by American General Electric CF6 engines, but recently the other big United States manufacturer in this field, Pratt and Whitney, offered to work with Airbus Industrie towards fitting of their engines, the JT9D.

But M. Bernard Lathiere, president and chief executive of AI, told me in Paris yesterday that neither the Rolls nor the Pratt and Whitney engines will replace the GE CF6.

Rather they will offer a wider range of options with a choice of three engines which should make the A300 more popular among a wider range of airlines. Although a total of 37 airbuses have been ordered by ten airlines, with a further 23 options to purchase, M Lathiere

needs many more orders for his 300-seater aircraft before it begins to show signs of breaking even for the sponsoring governments, France, West Germany, Holland and Spain.

The A300 is the only airliner in its class, and with only two of the new technology engines, is reckoned to be quieter than any of the other big jets.

But airlines still remain slightly suspicious of the ability of AI as a relatively new manufacturer of the world aerospace scene to build and support an airbus as big as the A300.

Many of them are still waiting to see what airbuses older-established companies, such as Boeing, will produce in this sector.

Breaking down this attitude is proving to be a long task for M Lathiere and his colleagues, but they felt that they had taken a big stride when Eastern, the big United States domestic airline, announced recently that they are to take four A300s on lease.

## Toolmakers 'disillusioned' by Leyland

Disillusionment by Britain's machine tool makers over the continuing lack of large scale orders by British Leyland has been stressed in the annual report of the Machine Tool Trades Association.

Mr George Trowbridge, the outgoing president, says the industry confidently expected that 1976 would result in an order input from Leyland Cars alone of £40m-£50m and were encouraged by the evident wish of this organization to plan

their investment programme on a more regular basis during the next ten-year period.

"Unfortunately, these high hopes have still to be realized despite an immense application of man hours on the part of our members in the preparation of projects for British Leyland."

The MTAA comprises both domestic producers of machine tools and importers of foreign products and Mr Trowbridge emphasizes in the report "the

firm policy of the association to encourage the development of two-way trade, both export and import". The important point was to ensure the maintenance of a positive balance of trade.

Twenty of the past 23 years have produced a positive trade balance for the United Kingdom industry. Exports of new and used machine tools at current prices from 1953 to 1976 totalled £923m against imports of £663.8m.

Business Diary, page 23

## Tory plea for distributors rejected

By Colin Ivermees

Parliamentary Staff

The level of High Street prices in the United Kingdom was in part restrained by the degree of efficiency and competition in the distributive industry, Mr Fraser, Minister of State at the Department of Prices and Consumer Protection, said in the Commons yesterday.

There was a good deal to be thankful for in the way the industry operated, he told members of the Standing Committee on the Price Commission Bill. They could be proud of the industry.

But under the Bill the industry was treated less stringently than it had been and did not have to give notification of price increases.

One of two distributors might, however, merit investigation under the Bill. Those handling coffee, tea, or cocoa—where prices were rising faster than distributive costs—might have unwarranted margins.

Mr Michael Sherby (Hillingdon, Uxbridge, C) said many distributors were concerned that they would lose the benefit of the Bill. However, an Opposition amendment to exempt distributors was rejected.

## Co-op chief's assurance on stamps

The Co-op, which last year increased its share of national retail trade for the third year running (it now stands at 7.3 per cent), has no intention of giving up the blue diamond stamps. This was made clear yesterday by Mr Arthur Sugden, chief executive of the Co-operative Wholesale Society.

Mr Sugden, introducing the annual CWS report, predicted that the withdrawal of the Tesco supermarkets group from its Green Shield trading stamp contract might give rise to some limited heavy price-cutting by its rival. But other retailers would not emulate this.

His feeling was that Green Shield would quickly recover from the loss of its Tesco business and, indeed, would have more flexibility in building up its stamp trade. For its part, the Co-op, which last year reaped a £35m profit in the form of stamps, would continue fighting for every bit of trade it could get.

Last year the CWS, main wholesaler and manufacturer to retail co-operatives, recorded a gross sales of £430m. After subsidies and VAT, the sales amounted to £126m, a rise of 15.2 per cent on the previous year. Overall trading profit fell from £15.2m to £14.9m.

## Call for £100m credit line for UK shipbuilders

Whitehall was urged yesterday to provide £100m in credit facilities to secure shipbuilding orders from developing countries.

Mr Derek Kimber, chairman of Austin & Pickersill the Wearside shipbuilders, gave warning that the United Kingdom was faced with "losing out" to its foreign competitors unless it allocated funds for promoting shipbuilding orders for Third-World countries.

The developing countries of the world, he said, provided an enormous potential for the United Kingdom shipbuilding industry.

## Price Commission rejects 11 increases

Eleven notifications of price increases submitted by companies in categories I and II were rejected by the Price Commission in April. Six of the rejections were made to cement manufacturers.

In seven cases the companies in question withdrew their applications, and in a further 32 the prices body made reductions in the increases sought.

In category III the commission's regional offices secured the agreement of 125 separate enterprises to make price reductions to eliminate excess profits.

## Mr Ennals denies breach of faith

Mr Ennals, Secretary of State for Social Services, has denied breaking an undertaking given by the Prime Minister to the Confederation of British Industry on the proposed Bill to give unions seats on pension fund boards of trustees. Mr John Methven, the CBI's director general, had accused Mr Ennals of breaking faith on the promise of talks, which the CBI before the Bill was published.

In a letter to Mr Methven, Mr Ennals said: "Let me assure you that the decision has never been taken about the introduction of this Bill in this session. The whole question is still under consideration by the Government."

## Steel strikers ask men laid off for help

Strikers at the British Steel Corporation works at Port Talbot, South Wales, yesterday appealed for help from the 6,700 men who have been laid off because of their seven-week "dispute" over pay differentials. The strike committee, representing 560 electricians, issued a statement urging those laid off to press for management to start negotiations.

## Letting the Third World benefit from our milk surpluses

From the Marquess of Sligo

Sir, England is committed to fair prices for dairy farmers. She is also committed to purchase annually 120,000 tons of New Zealand butter. Cows and shepherds are increasingly efficient, margins are cheaper and, for the sedentary, perhaps healthier. There will thus be more butter mountains unless she quickly finds an alternative use for surplus milk.

In 1976 England produced 16,000 tons of dried whole milk powder. This contains the butterfat, unlike dried skim milk, which is the by-product of buttermaking. Surprisingly, over a million tons of this are still in intervention storage in the EU.

There is a correlation between too much butter, not enough whole dried milk, and the Third World. Last year England's contribution to the overseas food fund included 600,000 tons of cereals—presumably a book entry. England is a net importer of cereals. For the starving and near starving—particularly children—cereals have nothing like the advantages of milk, which contains 35 per cent protein and all the vital minerals and vitamins. Neither do they solve the surplus milk problem.

Milk powder must be reconstituted, ie, mixed with water before use. Polluted, almost non-existent water is itself often a cause of famine. But pure water supplies are an agreed priority for the Third World and a crash programme of deep well boring and the

shipping of milk powder should be undertaken.

There would be problems of distribution and refrigeration—though bulk refrigeration is less costly than might be thought. Capital for dried milk production plant rather than for butter making would be needed for home creameries. Remote families areas might not be reached, but sheer starvation merges into undernourishment, and a few centres for well boring and dried milk close to big cities (Calcutta comes to mind) would save thousands of lives. It would "cost" much less than all these cereals.

To fellow members of the EEC England and France often act with cynical disregard for the agricultural ideals of the Treaty of Rome. An Orwellian concept of equality operates and the powerful are much more equal than others. Here, surely, is a case for unilateral action by Britain which would delight European and Third World governments.

To a non-expert it appears accounting is sensible; politically sensible—the underfed often starve, in despair, to extreme Marxism; and morally sensible. Of all the agricultural problems, this butter business could be most easily solved. None other, tackled along the lines suggested, would benefit so many and irritate so few.

Yours faithfully, SLIGO, House of Lords, Westminster, May 9.

## Embarrassment over jubilee crowns

From Mr B. M. Thompson

Sir, I was interested to learn from your article "Why man conditions does not always mean a perfect coin" (May 5) that jubilee crowns are being struck at the rate of 600 per minute.

As a bank manager, I am embarrassed by my inability to fulfil orders for jubilee crowns accepted from my customers as long ago as November, 1976, let alone orders received since then. I understand that the head office of my bank placed a large initial order some time ago. They have been receiving weekly supplies, insufficient to fill the initial order, and these supplies have now been reduced and are to be reduced still further very shortly.

Supplies received to date have been completely insufficient to meet the demand from branches, and one is left wondering how it is that certain supermarkets have apparently been able to obtain unlimited supplies of these coins. As it is, I have the embarrassment of that I am unable so far to let them have the crowns they ordered so long ago, and as things stand a very much doubt if they will be available by Jubilee Day on June 7.

Yours faithfully, B. M. THOMPSON, 4 Hook Road, Kingsclere, Newbury, Berkshire, RG15 9PD, May 5.

## Bank opposition to nationalization

From Mr W. E. Gale

Sir, Norman Atkinson, one of the instigators of the Labour Party's bank nationalization plan, has said (May 10) that the banks have entered the political arena by attacking those plans. Had he expected them to stand over their affairs without protest? Does he not appreciate the strength of opposition among bank staff who know, better than any, how fallacious are the nationalizers' arguments?

The banks' customers had better start thinking in terms of a state bank if they want efficiency, he says. Does he mean like the Post Office, the railways and other services in public control?

Those who work in the banks know that our customers' first requirement is to have their money kept safe, but accessible. Of course, Mr Atkinson would prefer bank customers to be tackled along the priorities like helping to fund socially desirable operations that lose money. Is it so unreasonable, though, for the banks to tell customers that they hold certain dangers?

Certainly the staff of banks

want the electors to know what is at stake. If, as he says, the electorate is to be called upon to vote for the party giving the best banking system the facts should be laid before the electors at an early date. After all, nobody wants bank nationalization to come about merely by default—do they?

Yours faithfully, W. E. GALE, General Secretary, Barclays Group Staff Association, 51 Portico Road, Havant, Hants, RG25 9JH, May 5.

## Oxley Printing Group Ltd.

### 1976 — A Year of Recovery

Chairman Michael Lewis reports:

... Return to Profitability — Good Progress will continue throughout 1977

Very substantial increase in Profits anticipated — Resumption of Dividends expected ...

Increased turnover by 28% Return to profitability after losses in 1975 Particularly strong second half Net asset value 42p per ordinary share

### Summary of Group Results £000's

	1976	1975
Turnover	16,147	12,905
Profit (loss) before tax	305	(178)
Attributable Profit (loss)	295	(272)
Earnings per ordinary share	5.0p	(3.7p)
Net assets per ordinary share	42.4p	(37.4p)

### Principal Companies in the Group

Printing Broglie Press Ltd. Carlsle Work Offset Ltd. Morrison and Gibb Ltd. Oxley Press (Nottingham) Ltd. Product Support (Graphics) Ltd. William Stevens Publications Ltd.	Platemaking Ace Engraving Ltd. Alderslade Ltd. Art Reprographic (London) Ltd. Art-Type Ltd. Bristol and West Engravers Ltd. Layton-Sun Group Ltd.	Sun Litho Ltd. Sun Span Ltd.
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Copies of the Report and Accounts are available from the Company Secretary, Oxley Printing Group Ltd., 65 Conduit Street, London W1R 0NY.

محاسبه الحسابات





## Three months' results

### Interim Statement

The results for the three months ended 31st March 1977, estimated and subject to audit, are compared below with those for the similar period in 1976, which are restated at 31st December 1976 rates of exchange; also shown are the actual results for the full year 1976.

It must be emphasised that the results for the interim period do not necessarily provide a reliable indication of those for the full year.

	3 months ended 31.3.77 £ millions	3 months ended 31.3.76 £ millions	Year ended 31.12.76 £ millions
Net written premiums—			
General Business	178.3	154.8	620.3
Investment Income	18.3	12.5	60.0
Underwriting Results—			
General Business	(6.9)	(11.5)	(17.6)
Long Term Insurance Profits	0.5	0.5	1.9
Loan and Bank Interest	11.9	1.5	44.3
Profit before tax and Minority Interests	11.5	1.1	42.5
Principal Exchange rates used in converting overseas results:			
U.S.A.	\$1.72	\$1.70	\$1.70
Canada	\$1.82	\$1.71	\$1.71

Net written premiums and investment income increased in sterling terms by 15.2% and 46.2%, respectively. Adjusted to exclude the effects of currency fluctuations the increases were 16.5% and 47.8%, respectively.

There was an underwriting loss in the United Kingdom of £3.5 million (1976, £3.6 million) of which £2.4 million was incurred in the Motor account where there was a sharp increase in claims incidence arising from the severe weather conditions. The Home-owners account, where some corrective measures have already been introduced, also produced an unsatisfactory result.

In the United States net written premiums were \$127.3 million (1976, \$112.9 million) and the operating ratio was 104.83%, as compared with 110.72% for the same period in 1976. The Automobile, Property and Liability departments were all substantial contributors to the underwriting losses which aggregated to £4.1 million (1976, £6.9 million).

Satisfactory underwriting results were achieved in Canada, Australia, New Zealand and Brazil but there were substantial losses in Europe and, although improved as compared with the similar period in 1976, the South African results were also disappointing.



**General Accident Fire & Life Assurance Corporation Ltd.**  
World Headquarters, General Buildings, Perth, Scotland.



## LONDON UNITED INVESTMENTS LTD.

### Another Record Year

	1976	1975	% change
Pre-tax Profit	£1,735,000	£887,000	+100%
Earnings per share	12.15p	6.34p	+92%

### RESULTS FOR THE YEAR ENDING 31st DECEMBER

	1976 £000's	1975 £000's
Turnover	9,224	5,594
Operating profit		
Insurance	1,854	834
Other	194	165
Group overheads	2,058	999
Share of profits of associated company	323	235
Profit before taxation and extraordinary items	1,735	764
Taxation	697	383
Profit after taxation and before extraordinary items	1,038	484
Extraordinary items	185	491
Profit (Loss) after taxation and extraordinary items	853	(7)
Transfer of non-revenue reserves	129	336
Profit available for distribution	992	329
Dividends on shares	322	253
Net profit retained	660	71
Earnings per share		
Basic	12.15p	6.34p
Fully diluted	11.26p	6.05p

The Directors recommend payment of a final dividend of 1.8824p per share on the 8th June, 1977. These dividends, together with the related tax credit, amount to 5.7933p per share for the year and compare with 5.2664p per share for 1976. Copies of the Report and Accounts may be obtained from the Secretary, Dept. T1, 20-21 Red Lion Court, EC4A 3ED.

## FINANCIAL NEWS AND MARKET REPORTS

### Stock markets

## Floating rate bond encourages long gilts

With equities ultimately making little headway after a firm start, it was the turn of gilts to take the limelight even though demand was never more than moderate.

The key to some strong gains, especially at the long end, was the decision to launch an experimental floating-rate bond at the end of the month. The fact that the issue will only be of £400m, a figure rather below expectations, was a particular stimulant and long dates responded with rises of between one and 14 points.

What the market is looking for from Ranks Hovis McDougall is a strong second half boosted by overseas acquisitions, and total profits 10 per cent better than last year's £41.9m. Dealers will be well satisfied if interim profits, due today, match the £19.9m earned last time in a particularly strong period for the bakery business. The shares held steady at 48p.

"Shorts", looking for still lower interest rates, closed with gains of up to one half. As on Monday, equities went into reverse after the first two hours as profits were small. But this time there was little or no late interest and the FT

Index, 4.5 up at 10 am, closed just 1.5 ahead at 468.2.

With the institutions withdrawing from the sidelines for the last two days, some dealers were saying that the market may have run its course for the time being. But a majority feel it still has some steam left and could well reach 500 before the institutions consider their portfolios have the correct balance of equities to gilts.

News of the general run of trading was uninspired, a good range of speculative and takeover stocks continued to enliven the proceedings. AVP, suspended on Monday pending a takeover announcement, quickly shot up 36p to point below agreed terms of 130p from London, but an offer of 50p from Clyde Petroleum was quickly turned down by Lyon & Lyon which ended 13p to 57p.

News of an approach, again not identified, was good for a rise of 7p to 26p for Wolverhampton Die while some disappointment at the fresh minority listing of General Occidentale had Cavenham 9p down from their suspension price at 134p. News of James Goffier share purchases had Alpine Holdings lower by 3p to 28p.

There was renewed support for J. Bibby, up 7p to 141p, while Hays Wharf closed 5p

ahead at 169p in the hope of higher terms from Ocean Transport.

Speculative support went into Sharna Ware, faster by 10p to 65p and Invergordon 6p to 62p and for a similar reason Beaverbrook "A" touched 61p at one point only to close at an unchanged 50p. Another good spot in papers was United News, which finished with a rise of 7p to 27p.

The dividend forecast which accompanied a £5.6m rights

issue from Empire Stores helped with a rise of 8p to 143p, while Regrolle Parsons reacted a further 8p to 193p on the Drax controversy. In engineers, two

benefit from favourable comment were John Brown 5p to 197p and Simon, which rose a similar amount to 197p. Hoping that cheaper money will give a lift to the ailing construction industry, issues like Tarmac 5p to 183p, Redland 4p to 119p and Laing "A" 3p to 101p performed compar-

### Latest dividends

Company (and par value)	Div date	Year ago	Pay date	Year's total	Prev year
Ayrshire Metal (25p) Fin	2.14	1.98	24/5	3.14	2.85
Blackleys (20p) Fin	2.25	1.77	2/7	3.41	3.1
Thomas Borthwick (50p) Int	2.4	—	8/7	—	2.8
Bulmer & Lumb (20p) Fin	1.45	1.4	1/7	2.78	2.52
Coppydex (10p) Fin	1.53	1.38	1/7	2.23	2.02
Fidelity Radio (10p) Fin	1.38	1.16	7/7	4.64	4.22
John Foster (25p) Fin	1.62	0.81	—	1.62	0.81
Hartwells Group (25p) Fin	2.92	2.57	1/8	3.93	3.57
C. E. Heath (20p) Fin	9.09	4.65	1/7	12.98	11.9
L. N. Nichols (25p) Fin	0.74	0.74	7/7	0.74	0.74
Walter Rommance (25p) Fin	7.42	6.75	—	7.42	6.75
Seccombe Marshall (11) Fin	8.2	1.7	15/2	13.2	13.2
Stoddards (10p) Int	0.8	0.62	15/7	—	1.65
Time Products (10p) Sec Int	1.11	1.01	—	1.5	1.36
Furness, Withy (11) Sec Int	4.29	3.9	12/7	7.31	6.65
Whitbread & Co (25p) Fin	2.49	2.25	2/7	3.2	3.2
Sainsbury (10p) Int	1.1	1.01	1/7	1.57	1.52
Lennon Bros (25p) Fin	5.75	5.5	18/7	5.5	5.5

Dividends in this table are shown net of tax on pence per share. To establish gross multiply the net dividend by 1.54. \* Total dividend to date; † For 13 months.

## Hartwells' peak, Perry and Wadham cheerful

By Victor Feistead

Cheerful announcements were released yesterday by three big car dealers.

The Hartwells Group produced best-ever profits, while the chairman of Wadham Stringer and Harold Perry Motors are both optimistic following large profit rises in 1976.

More-than-doubled figures in the second half-year enabled Oxford-based Perry to report pre-tax profits of 61.8 per cent up at a record £12.3m for the year to February 28.

The rise in turnover was only just over half of the profit increase, being 31.7 per cent to £22.9m. The final dividend gross, is being raised from 3.95p to 4.5p, lifting total from 5.5p to 6.05p. If the standard rate of tax is amended to 33 per cent before July 24, the final will be increased to 4.64p gross.

For the three years before 1976-77, Hartwells' pre-tax profits were 45.2 per cent, rising to 45.6 per cent in 1976. Mr. R. S. Huggins, chairman, comments that profits in this period "virtually stagnated". He explains that the rise in turnover last year was achieved in spite of a poor supply of cars, which was a relation to order held, which

resulted in the loss of some business.

Hartwells' profit for March, 1977, was well in excess of March 1976. But the group started April with an inadequate number of new vehicles.

However, the board is hoping for a record year in the 12 months to next February, but a lot depends on the controlling of inflation and improvements in the economic situation.

The first-quarter's results exceeded the similar figures of a year ago. Mr. J. F. MacGregor, the Harold Perry chairman, reports that the group's pre-tax profits of £606,000—an increase of 45 per cent on 1976. He is encouraged by the substantial orders in hand and the group's confidence in the immediate future. This year is expected to be better than last.

At Wadham Stringer, the Leyland and Rolls-Royce dealers, the chairman, Mr. F. C. Toole, says that the company made considerable progress in 1976 and that this continues. The first-quarter's results exceeded the similar figures of a year ago.

Mr. J. F. MacGregor, the Harold Perry chairman, reports that the group's pre-tax profits of £606,000—an increase of 45 per cent on 1976. He is encouraged by the substantial orders in hand and the group's confidence in the immediate future. This year is expected to be better than last.

## Fidelity up 33 pc still going strong

By Tony May

The recovery of Fidelity Radio, continues with a "satisfactory" level of trading being achieved in difficult economic conditions. True the group did not manage to reach the record £2.2m pre-tax profit achieved in 1974, but there was an advance of 33 per cent to £1.75m for the year to March 31. Of this £1.2m was brought in during the second, and usually more profitable half, a jump of 43 per cent.

Sales for the year went up 36 per cent to £17.8m, with the credit going to a better market penetration both at home and abroad. Mr. Jack Dickman, chairman of this audio equipment group, says that this was achieved by improved efficiency and economy without sacrificing margins.

Sales in the United Kingdom rose 35 per cent to £15.3m, while exports were 49 per cent up at £2.4m. On net profits up from £834,000 to £836,000, the dividend is raised from 6.45p to 7.14p. Earnings a share are 9.88p compared with 7.49p.

At half time, when profits went up 11 per cent to £12,060 Mr. Dickman said that the second-half would benefit from price increases and the introduction of new lines.

## Empire stores raising £5.6m by rights issue

By Our Financial Staff

A big cash-raising operation—coupled with the forecast of a large dividend increase—is announced by Empire Stores (Bradford), the main order group where Mr. C. T. Wells is chairman.

Empire proposes to raise about £5.6m (after expenses) by the issue of 5.44m ordinary 25p shares by way of a rights on a one-for-four basis at 108p per share. The proposed discount of 33p on yesterday's close of 143p, a rise of 8p. The new shares will not rank for the final dividend for the year to January 29.

Barclays Merchant Bank has underwritten the issue. The directors intend to recommend a total gross dividend for the current year of 7.51p on the bigger capital. This is an increase of 42.7 per cent on last year.

The Treasury has agreed to the higher dividend in the context of the issue. Dealers are expected to start next Monday. At this stage, the board finds it too early to make a profit forecast, but in view of the encouraging trading results to date, it believes the group will have a stronger second year in 1976-77, pre-tax profits rose by 27 per cent to £5.43m on sales 31 per cent higher at £77.43m.

Empire's board believes that the bank and other facilities available to the group are sufficient to meet its current requirements, but it is noted that the longer-term planned expansion of the group's business should be financed on a more permanent basis.



Mr. C. T. Wells, chairman of Empire Stores.

available to the group are sufficient to meet its current requirements, but it is noted that the longer-term planned expansion of the group's business should be financed on a more permanent basis.

It is decided that this can be best achieved by increasing the ordinary capital which will also strengthen the capital base of the group and maintain a "prudent relationship" between borrowings and shareholders' funds. Initially, the proceeds will be used to repay bank borrowings.

## A hat trick of Textile cheer led by Bulmer and Lumb

By Our Financial Staff

Par a big increase in business through hitherto idle plant and you get a bound in profits. Exports again textile groups are peddling up the cycle of one boom and boom.

The heavyweight yesterday was worsted spinner, Bulmer and Lumb (Holdings), which swept pre-tax profits up from £624,412 to £1,438,412 in the 53 weeks to April 3. Turnover soared from £14.38m to £24.27m.

Earnings a share more than doubled to 7.58p and up goes the dividend from 3.89p gross to 4.28p. The final is 2.27p gross, and Bulmer may top up if ACT drops.

Mr. G. M. Warry, chairman, reports that the year's profits should be at least as big as those now reported. They ended the year 132 per cent ahead; at half time the increase was 130 per cent.

The financial year of Hield Brothers, in the worsted, also finished on April 3. Here the similarly ends. Hield recovered later than Bulmer but the group moved from a net loss of £145,000 in the first six months to pre-tax profits of £38,255 for the full year. This was good, but not enough to get anywhere near the £201,413 of 1975-76.

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## Margins the criteria, say Seccombe

By Adrienne Gleeson

Results from the discount house Seccombe Marshall & Campion for the year to end-April mirror the pattern shown by others in the sector. Good capital profits in the second half make up for a setback in the first—though in the case of Seccombe that setback was not significant. Total profits for the year, after tax and a transfer to the contingencies reserve, increased from £359,000 to £473,000, and the directors recommend the maximum possible increase in the final dividend to bring the total for the year to 23.4p gross.

Seccombe reckons that margins, rather than capital profits, will be the name of the game from now on, and a similar line is adopted by Gerrard & National, whose chairman, Mr. R. G. Gibbs, says in his annual report that the scope for further falls in interest rates now seems limited. At the April 5 balance-sheet date the total book was up from £761m to £802m. The group has made a "most auspicious" start to the current year.

For Smith St Aubyn, too, the start has been "excellent", though the group is within the past two weeks sold some of its gilts, which are shown in the April 5 balance sheet at £50.8m, against £32.4m a year earlier. The average length of the group's book is "quite a bit longer than at this time last year", says Mr. J. F. E. Smith, chairman.

## Gulliver stake in Alpine glazing

James Gulliver Associates has acquired a 15 per cent stake in douglazing group, Alpine Holdings, and has an option to buy a further 14.97 per cent.

The vendors, in equal proportions, are Mr. A. Dwyer, the current chairman of Alpine who will remain only as a non-executive director, Mr. H. Singer, who has similarly relinquished all executive responsibilities and Mr. Stoller, who is also a non-executive director but continues as executive director and chairman of Alpine Double Glazing.

Mr. James Gulliver, the former chief of Pine Fare, the supermarket division of Associated British Foods, and latterly in control at Oriol Foods, will become non-executive Alpine chairman and acting chief executive. But it is intended that a full-time executive will be appointed shortly.

Alpine shares were suspended on Monday at 26p and returned yesterday at 31p. JGA's option to buy the 14.97 per cent stake is at 38.75p, or a 21.25 per cent discount on the middle market quotation at the time of the exercise, between May 1979 and November 1980.

W'ton Die Shares of Wolverhampton Die Casting turned 7p to 28p as the board disclosed that it had received a bid approach. The price tag is about £1.2m. No suitor was named, but the approach "might lead to an offer". Meanwhile, Leadcraft (Holdings) where shareholding seems to be consolidating hands, the board says that indi-

viduals have been inquiring whether they would get a seat on the board if they became substantial shareholders. The board's reply is that "in no circumstances would the acquisition of a minority shareholding be regarded as entitling an individual to board representation."

## Kincaid dips

Reporting pre-tax profits for 1976 down from £1.73m to £1.35m, the board of John C. Kincaid, says in its annual report that it is not possible to estimate the outcome of the talks with the Government regarding the compensation payable for the acquisition of the company. However, the board trusts that the compensation will fully reflect Kincaid's true worth. The ordinary capital is privately held.

## Ayrshire upswing

Following the upswing in the first half-year, Ayrshire Metal Products reports pre-tax profits for the full year to December 31 up from £392,000 to £701,000, a record. Turnover rose from £8.61m to £9.68m. Shareholders benefit, with their total gross dividend going up from 4.33p to 4.34p.

## Local authorities

One-year bonds this week carry a coupon of 9 1/2 per cent offered with a discount of 1/16 or 59.15/16 per cent. Last week's coupon was at par at 9 1/2 per cent. Most boroughs are raising £500,000 but Oxfordshire has taken up £1m over three years. Other three-

year borrowers are Hyndburn, Perth & Kinross—which also has a two-year bond, and Vale Royal, while Dover is raising £200,000 over four years. Two-year bonds are favoured by Harrow, Lambeth and Manchester.

## W Runciman

A rise in second-half profits from £1.25m to £1.33m, leaves the 1976 pre-tax total just 9 per cent down to £2.51m at Walter Runciman. A half time the fall at this shipping and freight agent was from £1.5m to £1.17m. Turnover rose from £30.2m to £33.6m for 1976. After adjusting for the rights issue, earnings a share are 15.5p against 20.3p, while the dividend is raised from 10.39p to 11.4p gross.

## Oxley Printing

Oxley Printing in its annual report, says it believes the good progress achieved in the last

## FINANCIAL NEWS AND MARKET REPORTS

Unquoted Fwd Technology  
reverses into enlarged MPI

Ray Maughan  
Forward Technology Industries, once a potential candidate for flotation, has by-passed its clear aversion to new issues by reversing into MPI, formerly Music & Plastic Industries. The new group will name the name of the unquoted company.

FIT has agreed to exchange 100 shares of the capital for 100 shares in MPI, putting estimated value of £5m on 1 at the underwriting price 80p a share.

To make this acquisition, MPI is headed by Mr Ronald Buck, is to increase its authorised capital from £1m to £4.5m. This will be effected by the creation of 66m new shares of 5p each and the entire capital will then be contributed into 8.6p 50p ordinary shares.

Commercial Finance Corporation, which has associated Estate Duties

Investment Trust, holds 8.6 per cent of FIT, will subscribe for 512,500 shares in the new company, and underwrite subscriptions offered by merchant bank Singer & Friedlander, for a similar number at the same price.

The enlarged company forecasts a dividend of 6.7p for the year ending June 30, 1978, which gives a 2.9 per cent at this underwriting price. Based on notional profits of £12.8m pre-tax for the current year, the p/e would be 10.7.

The board, headed by Mr Gordon Allen, will hold 66 per cent of the new equity capital. Mr Allen and family trusts have contracted to receive all dividends before 1980, which would bring the dividend cover up from 1.1 times on full payment to 2.6 times.

FIT, based in the electronics and electrical industries, generally has had a good track record since its formation in 1969.



Mr Ronald Buck, chairman of MPI.

J Foster  
may sound  
note for  
textiles

By Our Financial Staff

John Foster & Son, the only vertically integrated mohair group in the country, is going for a "significant improvement in profits" for the year to February 25 next.

If Foster can be seen as the weather-vane for the textile industry, it is a fair bet that the sector is already on the move. The group emerged from the rough conditions of 1975-76 with a pre-tax profit of £388,000 last year against £94,000. However, the board, headed by Mr J. F. B. Grant, is not expecting a full recovery to the 1973-74 peak of £1.2m in the immediate future.

But confidence has returned and, almost inevitably, it stems from export markets. These, and what Foster believes it sells for indirect export each account for about a third of total sales, up last year from £9.7m to £12.04m. Domestic activity, the board states, "remains difficult".

Mohair prices remain firm. South African prices are returning to their November peaks and are thought likely to stabilize at least until the autumn sales, in Turkey, where the market is at least partly Government controlled, selling prices are also high and Foster expects that the forthcoming Turkish election will underpin selling levels.

So, mohair, which accounts for about 50 per cent of output in a good year is enjoying good demand at "fair" prices. Since this product provides the added value and thus the high margin to Foster's ordinary cloth trade, profits should accelerate while this trend continues.

A first and final dividend of 2.5p gross per share, up from 1.25p, yields 8.6 per cent at yesterday's unchanged price of 29p. The board, however, has scope to lift the total from the 1973-74 peak of 5.1045p gross a share.

C E Heath's  
two-for-one  
scrip caps  
good year

By Tony May

Soaring profits, the promised dividend boost and a two-for-one scrip, all helped to push the shares of the C. E. Heath Group up 5p to 583p. At half time, when pre-tax profits of this insurance broking and underwriting group went up from £1.79m to £3.6m, the board said that it was expecting a "substantial increase" in profits for the full year. Apart from new business, the devaluation of the pound was helping the results.

The second half in fact brought in £7.6m against £4.6m to leave the group's total for the year to March 31 up 76 per cent at £11.2m—easily a record.

As was promised at the time of last year's rights issue, the group is hoisting its dividend up from 10.23p to 20p gross. A breakdown of profits shows that on the broking side income went up 48 per cent to £7.4m. This follows a rise from £7m to £8.6m in expenses which offset a jump from £10m to £15m in brokerage, and from £829,000 to £1.1m in investment income. The board comments that the reduction from 70.6 per cent to 57.7 per cent in the expense ratio and the increased income reflect a "substantial addition of new business".

On the underwriting side there was, as expected, no profit commission from the Lloyd's operations, compared with £330,000 a year ago. Insurance company profits rose from £127,000 to £371,000, while fees and overriding commission reached £3.3m against £2.6m. Investment income and interest rose from £752,000 to £1.2m. After deducting expenses of £1.6m against £1.5m, profits from underwriting rose 52 per cent to £3.5m.

Mr F. Holland, the group's chairman, says that there was continued growth in Australia, and that the underwriting results show for the first time profits arising from the new insurance companies.

Unicorn Industries  
A Record Year

Turnover up 44% at £55m.  
Pre-tax profits up 98% at £5m.  
Earnings per share up 92% at 11.3p  
Assets per share up 34% at 107p  
Dividend up 10% at 4.86p

"Although there is still no evidence of a steady recovery in the economy, the higher level of activity within the Group during the second half of 1976 has for the most part been maintained, and this should be reflected in the results for the first half of 1977. Any further projection would be unwise in the light of recent forecasts that growth rates in the world's major markets are likely to be lower than previously expected."

B. G. BALL-GREENE, Chairman,  
at the Annual General Meeting.



Unicorn Industries Limited

Principal U.K. Companies  
Universal Grinding Wheel Company Limited L. M. Van Moppes & Sons Limited English Abrasives Limited  
Universal Abrasives Limited Holmaters Limited Impregnated Diamond Products Limited

Copies of the Report and Accounts may be obtained from the Secretary, Castle Hill House, Castle Hill, Windsor, Berkshire SL4 4LY

## Briefly

Lyde Pet  
ids for  
yon & Lyon

The shares of Lyon and Lyon Spent 13p to 57p yesterday the news of a 50p-a-share bid from Clyde Petroleum. It was said yesterday that the bid had bought 650,000 ordinary shares from Dr C. B. Phillips and others and was beneficially created in 25.7 per cent of capital. Mr Michael Lyon, son's chairman, was told by Mr J. R. Friedlander that Clyde ended to make an offer of 50p a share—which was Lyon's ordinary capital £1.6m. Although the board consider the offer when it made, the chairman believes a share is "totally inadequate". Shareholders are asked to take no action.

**UNICORN INDUSTRIES**  
Chairman told annual meeting at higher level of activity in the group for the most part has been maintained. This should be reflected in first-half results.

**N. NICOLS**  
In year to March 31, turnover of N. Nichols (Windsor) rose from £3.1m to £4.4m and profits from £379,000 to £500,000. Total gross payment of £10.75p to 16.54p and a four-for-one scrip issue proposed.

**GOLDMAN GROUP**  
Turnover for 1976, £13.17m (1975, £10.7m). Pre-tax loss, £112,000 (1975, £124,000). No dividend since 1969.

**JENKINS MINING**  
Jenkins Mining & Finance announces that the acquisition of the Riverside Group has now been completed in accordance with the original agreement.

**RYTHOLLMERS**  
Board of British Rytholmers recommends that shareholders of Johnson & Firth Brown's 7m all-share offer, JFB, should have more than 50 per cent Rytholmers. It has now been announced that it does not need an authorization from the European Commission for the bid, or extended to Rytholmers' preference shareholders, with 43p for each 2.5 per cent preference and cash 3.85 per cent.

**BLOW BAND**  
Rytholmers, R76.42m (1.62m) for half to March 31 on a of £566.95m (R515.56m). The payment held at P. Board acts little change in year's sales and an unchanged total net of 24c.

Solvay recovery shows  
quadrupling of profits

Consolidated net profit of Belgian group Solvay & Cie. Group almost quadrupled in 1976, shooting up to 4,889m francs from 1,227m, the Belgian chemical company reports.

The president of 200 francs a share, up from 170 francs. The company said the group saw a vigorous recovery during 1976 reaching a peak at the end of the year. After this there were signs of certain sectors, notably plastics, were running out of steam.

Despite the strength of the Belgian franc against the currencies of most of the countries where the group operates, turnover in Belgian franc terms rose 9 per cent to 87,850m francs. The group said consolidated profit is equivalent to a return of 6 per cent on capital invested, expressed in replacement value terms. On the industrial front the parent company factories in general enjoyed a significant improvement, although Belgian plants again showed a loss—Reuters.

## International

leader of an international consortium which aimed to develop a 54,500m (about £12.5m) alumina plant in the Southern Philippines with several other international companies. The spokesman said a number of the companies due to participate in the project are now planning to take part in other projects.

**Pioneer foresees cut**  
The Pioneer Electronic Corporation of Japan forecasts near-consolidated earnings for year ending September 30 at 10,700 yen (about £21.4m) on sales of 171,700m yen. A company spokesman said that overall sales were expected to rise moderately in the year, with continued active export sales offsetting flagging domestic sales.

**Landesbank recovery.**  
The Hessische Landesbank girozentrale should make an operating profit of at least DM100m (about £23.5m) this year as well as show a profit on its extraordinary earnings account, the bank's chief executive, Dr Heinz Sippel, states. He said that the bank, which by the end of last year had been obliged to write off some DM3,000m on credits and investments made in the years up to the end of 1974, was now operating on a sounder basis.

**Hutchison International**  
The chairman of Hutchison International, a leading Far Eastern trading house, states that the present year started with the company well poised to consolidate the gains already realized, and looks forward to the future with confidence.

**Record for Squibb**  
Squibb Corporation of America expects to post record 1977 sales and earnings, aided in part by expected sales of over \$200m (about £117.8m) from recently introduced health-care and confectionery products. Mr Richard M. Furlaud, chairman, states. The 1977 earnings increase would be the ninth consecutive rise in the company's earnings. Squibb also expects to strengthen its position in the European pharmaceutical market with the introduction of its new drug, Corgard, which is at present in registration in West Germany and is expected to be available to 10 countries by the end of the year.

**Comalco shelves plan**  
Comalco of Australia has decided to defer plans for participation in an alumina smelter in the Philippines for at least two years, a company spokesman said. Comalco was the

**Unilever merger plan**  
Unilever Electrical Industries BHD says it is negotiating for a merger with Philips Malaysia SDN BHD and Malaysian Industrial Development Finance BHD. A company statement to Kuala Lumpur Stock Exchange said some outstanding issues remained to be resolved.

**HAW PAR (LONDON)**  
Payment of dividend on convertible shares of Haw Par (London) for 1977 has been fixed from May 31, 1978, to May 31, 1977. Dividends for 1976 and 1977 will be paid together on May 31.

**PETROCON**  
Chairman reports that services division will start 1977 a difficult year, pending expected increase in investment by the petrochemical industry.

## Wall Street

New York, May 17.—The New York stock market recovered in final minutes of trading to a higher in moderate volume. The Dow Jones industrial average was up 5.25 at 337.75, after an earlier decline to 336.65. Volume was 22,290,000 shares, up from 21,170,000 yesterday.

**Gold closes \$1.20 down**

Gold futures were down 10 cents to \$144.00. On May 17, gold prices were 10 cents lower across the board. NY gold futures closed at \$144.00, down from \$145.00. The price of gold in London was \$144.00, down from \$145.00. The price of gold in Zurich was \$144.00, down from \$145.00. The price of gold in Hong Kong was \$144.00, down from \$145.00. The price of gold in Tokyo was \$144.00, down from \$145.00. The price of gold in Sydney was \$144.00, down from \$145.00. The price of gold in Melbourne was \$144.00, down from \$145.00. The price of gold in Perth was \$144.00, down from \$145.00. The price of gold in Auckland was \$144.00, down from \$145.00. The price of gold in Wellington was \$144.00, down from \$145.00. The price of gold in Christchurch was \$144.00, down from \$145.00. The price of gold in Dunedin was \$144.00, down from \$145.00. The price of gold in Invercargill was \$144.00, down from \$145.00. The price of gold in Tauranga was \$144.00, down from \$145.00. 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## COMMODITIES AND MARKET REPORTS

## Sharp lift in coffee prices

Coffee futures rose sharply in London at the start of afternoon trading yesterday following confirmation of cold wind damage to some of North Paraná's coffee trees by Señor Camillo Calzans, president of the Brazilian Coffee Institute, dealers said.

Active and at times hectic buying lifted the July position up around £335 to a high of £338.50, compared with an overnight close of £332.

In mid-afternoon the market was active for about an hour and a half, at the special, and final, call spot May advanced by £397.50 and July went £418 ahead.

It was reported from Rio de Janeiro that leaves on some of the coffee trees in North Paraná had already turned brown as a result of strong winds and low temperatures.

The main damage was done late on Monday when the force of the wind, allied with the cold, attacked leaf cells.

One estimate is that Paraná could lose 15 to 20 per cent of its 1978-79 crop, which should have been four to five million 60-kilo bags.

Reports from North Paraná indicate varying degrees of damage. Not all trees were affected, with many of those on north-facing slopes escaping.

Of the damaged trees, generally the side facing the wind has some black, some brown and some green leaves. The other side of the tree may be all green.

Trees planted on the top of the hills appear worst affected, with the wind having passed over the top of some of the smaller trees and those on lower lying ground.

COPPER was barely steady. ARS was down 100, to 100.00. Lead was down 100, to 100.00. Zinc was down 100, to 100.00.

WHEAT was down 100, to 100.00. Barley was down 100, to 100.00. Oats were down 100, to 100.00.

MAIZE was down 100, to 100.00. Soybeans were down 100, to 100.00. Cotton was down 100, to 100.00.

Wool was down 100, to 100.00. Hides were down 100, to 100.00. Rubber was down 100, to 100.00.

Gold was down 100, to 100.00. Silver was down 100, to 100.00. Platinum was down 100, to 100.00.

Palladium was down 100, to 100.00. Iridium was down 100, to 100.00. Rhodium was down 100, to 100.00.

Ruthenium was down 100, to 100.00. Technetium was down 100, to 100.00. Yttrium was down 100, to 100.00.

Zirconium was down 100, to 100.00. Niobium was down 100, to 100.00. Molybdenum was down 100, to 100.00.

Technetium was down 100, to 100.00. Ruthenium was down 100, to 100.00. Rhodium was down 100, to 100.00.

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## Peru call on international copper pact

Geneva, May 17.—Peru has asked the second preparatory meeting on copper held by the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD) to convene a negotiating conference for an international copper agreement in the second half of next year.

The Peruvian request came at the start of the meeting attended by over 50 nations and called for the inter-governmental group of experts on copper to begin drawing up a draft copper agreement by the end of September this year.

This proposal was supported by delegations from several developing countries.

At the formal opening Mr. Bernardo Chizero, UNCTAD director of commodities, said that there was a strong need for a clear sense of direction in relation to copper before any further meaningful discussions could take place.

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## Hunt family lawyers file motions against CFTC

Chicago, May 17.—Lawyers for the Hunt family have filed three motions in the federal district court against the Commodity Futures Trading Commission (CFTC), including one challenging the concept of position limits.

The motions, a further development in litigation between the Hunt family and the CFTC, will be heard tomorrow before Federal Judge Frank J. McGarr.

The first motion requests an evidentiary hearing on the CFTC's regulation that sets position limits. It formalizes claims made in defence of CFTC charges that seven members of the Hunt family and a corporation they control traded soybean futures in concert and violated an aggregate bushel limit.

The Hunt attorneys have charged that the rule setting position limits is arbitrary and capricious and has no foundation in economic necessity.

The second motion asks for a preliminary injunction against the CFTC, its chairman, William Baggett, and other unnamed CFTC employees, compelling them from further public disclosures of positions, trades, transactions or intentions of any of the Hunts regarding their positions in soybeans or soybean futures.

When the initial CFTC complaint was filed on April 28, the agency released a breakdown of Hunt family holdings in soybean futures, based on data from traders, based on data which are normally kept confidential.

The Hunt request for an injunction is in line with charges made in a counterclaim they filed earlier.

The third motion seeks an order requiring the CFTC to comply promptly with the Hunt's outstanding requests for certain documents.

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## Foreign Exchange

It was another very quiet day on foreign exchanges yesterday with many of the leading dealers making their way to Montreux for the Forces conference at the end of the week.

Sterling edged 2 points easier against the dollar at \$1.7189 while the effective exchange rate index stayed at 61.7 for the third consecutive day.

Dealers said they thought the Bank of England may have given a little support initially when there was small commercial selling of sterling from Switzerland and Germany. Once this had been completed, the pound edged up again, though not on any business.

The dollar closed cheaper to most Continental currencies. German Marks rose from 2.3525 to 2.3550, Swiss francs from 2.5250 to 2.5275, and French francs from 4.9570 to 4.9595. The Dutch guilder strengthened from 2.4590 to 2.4595.

Gold closed unchanged at \$147.95 an ounce in London.

Spot Position of Sterling

Markets (100/100)

New York 100/100

London 100/100

Frankfurt 100/100

Paris 100/100

Geneva 100/100

Basel 100/100

Zurich 100/100

Vienna 100/100

Bombay 100/100

Calcutta 100/100

Rangoon 100/100

Singapore 100/100

Manila 100/100

Cebu 100/100

Yokohama 100/100

Osaka 100/100

Tokyo 100/100

Seoul 100/100

Beijing 100/100

Peking 100/100

Tientsin 100/100

Shanghai 100/100

Hangzhou 100/100

Nanchang 100/100

Kobe 100/100

Kyoto 100/100

Osaka 100/100

Tokyo 100/100

Seoul 100/100

Beijing 100/100

Peking 100/100

Tientsin 100/100

## Discount mark

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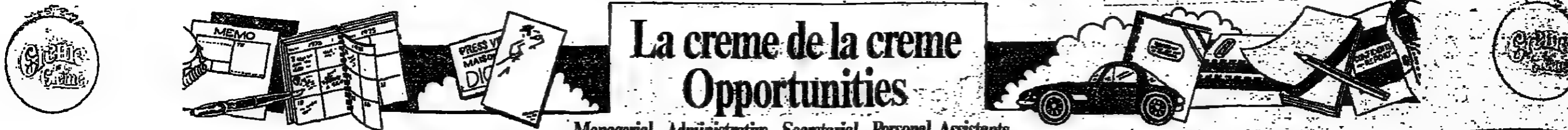
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Thoroughly experienced Medical Secretary required for overseas work. Must be fluent in English and have good shorthand and typing skills. Salary £3,500 p.a. plus L.V.s, 4 weeks holiday. Apply to: Mrs. A. Mieske, Personnel Manager, Bourne & Hollingsworth, 118 Oxford St., W.1. 01-636 1515.

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Wanted immediately for Chairman of City-based Public Company.

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Age: 30-40.  
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Applicants for this post of assistant to the committee should be aged 30 to 40 and have previous experience. Salary scale starting between £2,500 and £4,000 and rising by four annual increments of £150, plus London Weighting Allowance £465. For further information telephone Mrs. Andrews (01) 498 0191.

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Salary will be in the region of £3,500 and in addition 4 weeks holiday, free BUPA and L.V.s will be provided.

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£3,800

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Charismatic young French Secretary in charge of the U.K. operations for the International Development Division. The position is ideal for a young man with a good command of English and French, who is also a top-notch typist. The salary is £1,500 p.a. plus benefits. Please apply to: Mr. J. M. Morgan, 101-103, The Strand, London WC2R 0JH.

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A Computer Training Centre in London is looking for a young man with a good command of English and French, who is also a top-notch typist. The salary is £1,500 p.a. plus benefits. Please apply to: Mr. J. M. Morgan, 101-103, The Strand, London WC2R 0JH.

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To work with the best people in the world. The salary is £4,000 p.a. plus benefits. Please apply to: Mr. J. M. Morgan, 101-103, The Strand, London WC2R 0JH.

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With initiative and ambition, required by International Development Division. The salary is £3,500 p.a. plus benefits. Please apply to: Mr. J. M. Morgan, 101-103, The Strand, London WC2R 0JH.

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A major International P.R. Company requires two top Secretaries to work at Director level. Offices close to West End. The salary is £4,500 p.a. plus benefits. Please apply to: Mr. J. M. Morgan, 101-103, The Strand, London WC2R 0JH.

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## PA/SECRETARY

to Admin Director of the Marine Division of a major Lloyd's Broker. The AD is responsible for the day to day running of the division, employing nearly 200 people, as well as being closely involved in marine insurance.

He needs a secretary with excellent technical skills and the experience to take over a large proportion of the admin work. Preferred age is 30-40 and knowledge of insurance would be helpful.

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of small investment Advice Company in the West End are looking for a young man with a good command of English and French, who is also a top-notch typist. The salary is £1,500 p.a. plus benefits. Please apply to: Mr. J. M. Morgan, 101-103, The Strand, London WC2R 0JH.

ITALIAN £4,000+

PA/SECRETARY (35-40) to assist the Managing Director of a new W.I. branch of important financial group. The position is ideal for a young man with a good command of English and French, who is also a top-notch typist. The salary is £4,000 p.a. plus benefits. Please apply to: Mr. J. M. Morgan, 101-103, The Strand, London WC2R 0JH.

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Victoria SW1

British Airways own and manage seven major airports in the United Kingdom and invite applications from suitably qualified and experienced secretaries (shorthand and audio) who would like to join us in our interesting and important work. Minimum qualifications required are: Shorthand 100 wpm and Typing 40 wpm; Audio 350 words from tape transcribed within 30 minutes. We offer a minimum starting salary of £3250 p.a., generous holidays, LVs and a good pension scheme. If you would like to apply for a post with us, contact: Stella Newman, Personnel, British Airways, 2 Buckingham Gate, London SW1E 6JL (tel: 01-834 6621 Extn 95).

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WEST LONDON. PA International is the leading British firm of Management Consultants with operations extending worldwide. The International Development Division is based at Hounslow and its Director requires a Personal Assistant. The work is interesting, responsible, and requires an above-average and intelligent person used to dealing with overseas operations with an element of financial control. Knowledge of European languages would be an advantage but not essential. Applicants should be at least 25 years old and accustomed to working on their own initiative with a high degree of responsibility for a Senior Executive. The position offers a very attractive in a modern air-conditioned office with a salary around £3,800. Please apply to John D. Ellis, Director, PA INTERNATIONAL, INTERNATIONAL DEVELOPMENT DIVISION, LAMPTON HOUSE, LAMPTON ROAD, HOUNSLOW, MIDDLESEX. Tel: 01-872 1577.

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The London Director of the Scottish Council (Development and Industry) requires a PRIVATE SECRETARY. This unusually interesting post involves working at a senior level. Shorthand and a good knowledge of Scotland are essential. The work is varied and is likely to be even more absorbing as plans develop. Salary will be related to qualifications and experience. Position available late July/August. Please telephone for an appointment to Mrs. H. A. McLeod. THE SCOTTISH COUNCIL, 36 Strand, WC2R 0DW. Telephone 01-244 1885.

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We are a small friendly Company near Piccadilly Circus and are searching for two Bilingual Secretaries, German/English, to work for two of our young Product Executives. If you are 25+, think you are a good salary, intelligent, mature, able to work on your own with a good telephone manner, please contact: Vanessa Durham, 01-930 4504/9.

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Do you want a challenge - the chance to really stretch yourself? If so, we have a job for you as a Counselor with our rapidly expanding International Personnel Organisation. You'll specialise, assisting Client Companies with staff problems, and guiding Job Seekers. Full training, the opportunity to progress to management, a top salary and most of all total job satisfaction await you. If you are ambitious, quick thinking, with plenty of common sense and initiative to pass a job through from start to finish call me now.

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Can you handle 10 things at once? Have good admin. ability and a responsible attitude? (For minimum wage) Charming Knightsbridge M.D. offers real challenge in creative environment. JAYCAR CAREERS 85a St. James's St. W.1. 730 5148

ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICER

Required by Students' Union, W.I. Responsibilities include supervision of staff, office administration and maintenance of financial records. Experience in all or some of the above preferred. This post includes a wide range of duties and is a senior staff position. 5 weeks holiday p.a. Hours 10.30-5.30. SALARY 24,000. Tel: 636 6271

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Senior Executive of an International Bank seeks a young man with a good command of English and French, who is also a top-notch typist. The salary is £1,500 p.a. plus benefits. Please apply to: Mr. J. M. Morgan, 101-103, The Strand, London WC2R 0JH.

AMERICAN LAW FIRM

seeks a young man with a good command of English and French, who is also a top-notch typist. The salary is £1,500 p.a. plus benefits. Please apply to: Mr. J. M. Morgan, 101-103, The Strand, London WC2R 0JH.

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Young man, 25-30, go-ahead, with a good command of English and French, who is also a top-notch typist. The salary is £1,500 p.a. plus benefits. Please apply to: Mr. J. M. Morgan, 101-103, The Strand, London WC2R 0JH.

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Personal Asst. to M.D. to £4,500

Holborn area managerial prospects. An ideal opening for an intelligent, energetic and career orientated person with secretarial ability (25-35) looking for an opportunity to progress into management. Our client is seeking a 'right hand' to assist him in expanding the marketing and trading interests of this International Organisation, OND/HND Business Studies, or proven business acumen in a commercial environment essential. (B.62)

Secretary P.A. to £3,400. International Bank E.C.2. + exc. benefits. Banking or investment experience preferred, working for young executive in a progressive banking firm. Ideal opportunity for secretary (21-28) to gain further knowledge and have future potential within an exciting and growing organisation. (B.63)

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CITY £3,800 + BONUS. Expanding firm of International Commodity Brokers seeks Secretary/P.A. to work for their young Managing Director. He requires someone who is bright, efficient and well presented, to assist him in his busy professional life and deal with clients, both in the office and by telephone. Aged 25-35.

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SECRETARIAL AND NON-SECRETARIAL APPOINTMENTS ALSO ON PAGE 30

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# Appointments Vacant

**UNIVERSITY APPOINTMENTS**  
University of Botswana and Swaziland  
(UNIVERSITY COLLEGE BOTSWANA)  
Applications are invited for the post of  
**PROFESSOR OF ECONOMICS**  
Applicants must have a high degree of competence in the field of economics and a proven ability to teach and supervise research. They should also have a good knowledge of the Botswana and Swaziland economies and be able to contribute to the development of the country. Applications should be sent to the Registrar, University of Botswana and Swaziland, Gaborone, Botswana.

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**University of Malawi**  
(CHANCELLOR COLLEGE)  
Applications are invited for the post of  
**PROFESSOR OF EDUCATION**  
Applicants should have a high degree of competence in the field of education and a proven ability to teach and supervise research. They should also have a good knowledge of the Malawi education system and be able to contribute to the development of the country. Applications should be sent to the Registrar, University of Malawi, Zomba, Malawi.

**University of Dar es Salaam**  
Applications are invited for the post of  
**SENIOR LECTURERS**  
in the Department of Zoology and Marine Biology. Applicants should have a high degree of competence in the field of zoology and marine biology and a proven ability to teach and supervise research. Applications should be sent to the Registrar, University of Dar es Salaam, Dar es Salaam, Tanzania.

**University of Zambia**  
Applications are invited for the post of  
**SYSTEMS ANALYST**  
Applicants should have a high degree of competence in the field of systems analysis and a proven ability to teach and supervise research. Applications should be sent to the Registrar, University of Zambia, Lusaka, Zambia.

**University of London**  
King's College  
**LECTURERS IN PHILOSOPHY**  
Applications are invited for the post of Lecturers in Philosophy. Applicants should have a high degree of competence in the field of philosophy and a proven ability to teach and supervise research. Applications should be sent to the Registrar, King's College, University of London, London, England.

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FOR 5-YEAR-OLD CHILD.  
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In the Educational and Statistical Services Centre. Good references. Salary £120 p.w. plus expenses. Tel: 01-890 1234.

**HOUSEKEEPER**  
Single, experienced, reliable, and efficient. Good references. Salary £110 p.w. plus expenses. Tel: 01-901 2345.

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Single, experienced, reliable, and efficient. Good references. Salary £110 p.w. plus expenses. Tel: 01-012 3456.

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Single, experienced, reliable, and efficient. Good references. Salary £110 p.w. plus expenses. Tel: 01-123 4567.

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The Times Crossword Puzzle No 14,604

Success after Sixty  
Solve your staff problems by helping us to help the over sixties.  
Many older people want and need to work and are capable of doing so. Their abilities are too often ignored by employers.

DEATHS

ARMISTEAD - On May 15th at...  
BIRTHS - On May 15th at...  
MARRIAGES - On May 15th at...

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THE CHEST, HEART AND STROKE ASSOCIATION  
YACHTS AND BOATS  
HOLIDAYS AND VILLAS

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THOMSON BEST BUY  
THE FLOATING MOTORWAY  
THOMSON HOLIDAYS  
TRAVELAIR  
SARDINIA SPECIALS

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